

Fashion Outlook

Vested interests

Luxurious vests are top accessory

By Mary Martin Niepold

It's a small thing, really, but it's one of fashion's biggest hits. The vest has returned to women's wardrobes, and it looks like one of the easiest and surest ways to be in the fashion know this spring.

Back in 1977, Diane Keaton in the movie "Annie Hall" wore a man's vest, sparking a trend all over America. Women poked around in their husbands', brothers' and lovers' closets, looking to claim this loose-fitting corporate staple for their own trendy outfits.

Today, some 10 years later, vests are quite different. First of all, they are being designed especially for women. That means they fit close to the body and appear, for the most part, in luxurious fabrics like brocades, paisleys and hammered silks. Worn with blouses or next to bare skin, vests become an alternative to jackets and sweaters in the months ahead. Vests also look right with either pants or skirts, giving them the kind of maximum fashion mileage that more and more customers demand.

The Limited stores have made a big investment in vests. According to Ed Razek, executive vice president of marketing for the stores, vests are among the most important fashion accessory for spring.

"Since they're very versatile," he says, "women can have fun wearing them as an option over shirts and cardigans. It's something new to refresh their fashion wardrobe without investing a great deal of money."

Vests at The Limited are affordably priced at about \$24 to \$38. They range in mood from classic linen or linen-rayon-blend versions by the store's Mood by Krizia label (MBK) to ethnically inspired paisleys and Moorish prints by its OTB label.

Versatility is the key to the vest's early popularity. It looks crisp and casual when worn over cotton T-shirts or camp shirts and walking shorts. It looks feminine and sensuous when accenting a long flowing skirt. And it looks smart and sophisticated in more tailored versions topping white skirts and trousers.

The vest's new wave of popularity was launched in Paris last fall when couturiers showed their spring collections. Christian Lacroix had already been flirting with embroidered linen boleros for last year's spring collection, but for this spring, he takes the same idea of a fitted short jacket and transposes that look to the vest. Sans sleeves, this body-hugging accessory was shown in burlap with an embroidered floral design, worn bare over wool trousers.

One of the themes throughout spring's ready-to-wear line is simple, comfortable shapes that suggest, not

FASHION



MARY MARTIN NIEPOLD

ette. The vest, like the short bolero lets the world know there's a trim waist underneath.

While other European fashion houses like Gucci and Gianni Versace indulged in short boleros for spring, one of America's most talented new designers, Isaac Mizrahi, went straight for the vest in his spring collection.

Mizrahi showed a vest in heavy satin crepe, another in duchesse satin worn over silk burlap pants, and yet another in black suede worn over a navy shantung jumpsuit.

cling to, the body's shape. One of the best examples of this kind of styling is the return of the empire look — a high-waisted, body-defining silhou-

NRS NATIONAL REAL ESTATE SERVICE

BRAND REALTY INC.

PS

Home Post Scripts

By Glenda Hughes, Sales Rep. **873-0300**

"Make it Jamaica again"...now has new meaning to me! Our return to this lovely island is very well equipped to handle tourists and they do it very well, waiting on you hand and foot with wonderful Jamaican smiles and laughter. Hurricane Gilbert has left its mark however, with the vegetation not being nearly as lush as I remembered it, and the flowers certainly not in the profusion expected. This is overlooked however, but it is difficult to overlook the poverty that I suspect has become more prevalent since the storm. If one travels outside their well secured hotel acreage, it only takes a few minutes to meet up with the street vendors, the hustlers and the con artists. I do not remember having to deal with this before in Jamaica, but then I was there about 10 years ago, and perhaps my memory is lapsing (like my family tells me it is!). Because of the poverty, the distinction between "classes" is even more obvious. The middle class is certainly not in evidence anywhere, but the upper class and wealthy are very obvious.

We stopped by a real estate office to find out that they had nothing to offer us for sale and no information to give out either. Very strange indeed - but I suspect that we were probably a pain, rather than prospects that day. However, I did speak with the management at our resort, and found out some interesting things to report. The Jamaican government does have several programs in place for starter homes. It is only a little help, but at least it is better than nothing. The construction of new homes is very expensive, as all materials must be imported - hence making costs very high. Due to the storm, homes are in very short supply, and it has shot the prices up of those homes that were not affected - the old supply and demand deal works there as well as here too. I picked up a copy of the local newspaper to see what I could find out, and I see a centrally located townhouse, 3-bedroom, 2 baths in good condition for about \$123,000 Cdn. or a 1-bedroom, fully furnished income property for \$90,000 Cdn. With these figures in mind, it puts the cost of housing not too far off our own, in this area, but unfortunately the salaries are not quite the same in Jamaica. How in the world can the average Jamaican buy a home, when the minimum wage is \$25.00 per week!

I've always said, that we are very lucky to live in such a fabulous country as Canada - and this past trip has only endeared me more to my homeland and the opportunities that present themselves here. Sure our cost of living is high, but at least we can push ourselves through society with diligence and hard work. Our kids, with the same diligence can buy homes eventually and live well.

"Making it Jamaica again" will help the tourist trade and give us a needed rest and a tan - but count your lucky stars that you were born or at least live here - for a roof over our heads is a far cry from a tin lean-to in the Islands.

"I used vests in very single context," explains Mizrahi. "Vests are so versatile and modern. First of all, they are brief, and they just make some kind of statement. Also, for spring, the vest is a sexy alternative to a shirt, to be worn with either the longer skirts or pants and over a shirt or skin."

Mizrahi already showed vests in his fall 1988 collections. "We did these tiny vests that emphasized the high waist," he says. "It almost became like an accessory. The reason vests are becoming so popular now is because more and more, women are dressing from an accessory point of view — buying something simple, then buying some wonderful accessory to individualize the look — and a

vest is much like an accessory. Henri Bendel, the New York specialty store, endorsed the vest's fashion power several weeks ago by opening a new department called "Vested Interest." One-of-a-kind vests are featured, ranging in price from \$150 to \$2,000.

According to President Mark Shulman, the store sold out of its first order of 200 vests within three days. "These vests are very decorative, and women can adapt them to their own individual style," he says.

"You're not committing to a whole piece of clothing," Mizrahi concurs. "Instead, to some small, wonderful statement about yourself."

© 1989 NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN.

Trisha Romance

"CHRISTMAS MORNING"

LAST CALL

Unframed

\$280⁰⁰

Framed

Your Choice

\$375⁰⁰

(except gold fillet)

Pictures & Presents

ART GALLERY & GIFT SHOP

124 MAIN ST. S.
DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN

877-7654

NOW OPEN SUNDAY

This Week's Super Savings...



Knechtel Tetra-Pac

DRINKS or

JUICES

Assorted Flavours

3 x 250 mL. **88¢**

Golden Yellow

BANANAS

Product of the Tropics

29¢ LB./64+ kg.

OPEN SUNDAY

12-5 P.M.

Values In Effect

SUNDAY, JAN. 22nd

until

SATURDAY, JAN. 28th



GEORGETOWN FOOD MARKET

Moore Park Plaza, Georgetown **873-3963**

STORE HOURS:

Mon.-Fri.	8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Sunday	12 Noon-5:00 p.m.