

All the Beauty of the Season Awaits You!



What's fresh for this season and beyond.

By Laura Minquini

(NC)-The holiday season is a great time to show off the style maven in you while debuting chic new trends for next year. Most of us shop on a budget, but that shouldn't stop you from creating a glam new wardrobe to hit the holiday party circuit. Here are a few tips and tricks to becoming a fashion diva this Christmas (without breaking the bank).

Ring in the old

Before you complain that you have nothing to wear, take another look inside that closet. Clothes or accessories from years past can still make a great outfit. That cute beret you wore a few years ago isn't old, it's vintage. With hats making a spectacular comeback this season, it's time to dust off that chapeau - an easy way to make a stylish coat even more chic.

Go Classic

A key to a great wardrobe is having classic, timeless pieces that last from season to season. Invest in tailored pieces - a coat, a pair of pants or a dress - to mix with seasonal trends. A white dress shirt and a snazzy cashmere cardigan are always great closet staples because they never go out of style. To build a classic wardrobe without going over-budget, check online stores like eBay (www.ebay.ca), to find fantastic new and vintage items for a lot less than retail.

Accessorise

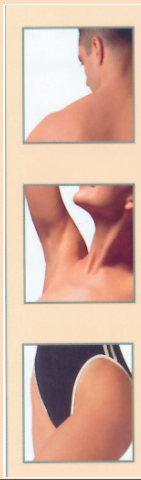
To keep your look current, mix trendy pieces with your classic items. This is the season of the glove - not just to keep your hands warm, but as accessories to complete the party look. Pick up a great pair of long leather gloves or short, brightly coloured satin numbers to wear indoors with a knockout dress. You'll be the height of fashion this winter.

Splurge

If you're looking to splurge this season, do so on a great pair of shoes or an amazing bag. They can completely transform an outfit, so they're definitely worth the investment. Not sure whether to spend or save? Invest in pieces that are well-made and classic. Trendy accessories or seasonal items should be kept on the cheaper side.

Look to the future

A great fashionista can always spot upcoming trends. If you're looking to buy pieces that will last into the new year, then pick up a shot of colour. In 2008, bright colours will dominate the fashion industry in clothes, bags, shoes and jewelry. To grab the latest trends before they're on retail shelves, check online sites like eBay. Laura Minquini is a fashion contributor to a number of Canadian magazines and national publications and the fashion expert on the eBay Canada Style Squad.



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