

BEAUTY IN A BEAT
FASHION HEAD TO TOE

THE
Kit
BEAUTY &
FASHION

This timeless classic never seems to leave our closet, fitting seamlessly with our work, evening and weekend wardrobes. With so many options currently available, now's the time to add one to your closet. And trust us—it will be in high rotation

BY VANESSA TAYLOR

revisiting the
TRENCH COAT

Kristin Cavallari works the classic trench style into an evening look

please see story, page 4

body kit
GIDDY UP

In a bid to bring back your fondest memories of the '80s, Ralph Lauren takes the attitude of his iconic Lauren spritz and reinterprets it with the Big Pony Collection. This quartet of scents characterizes itself through fruit and floral notes in various combinations. Easy to wear—effervescent even—but not as gutsy as the oriental we grew up with. EDT, \$65 each (50 ml) at mass retailers.



WHAT WE WANT THIS WEEK



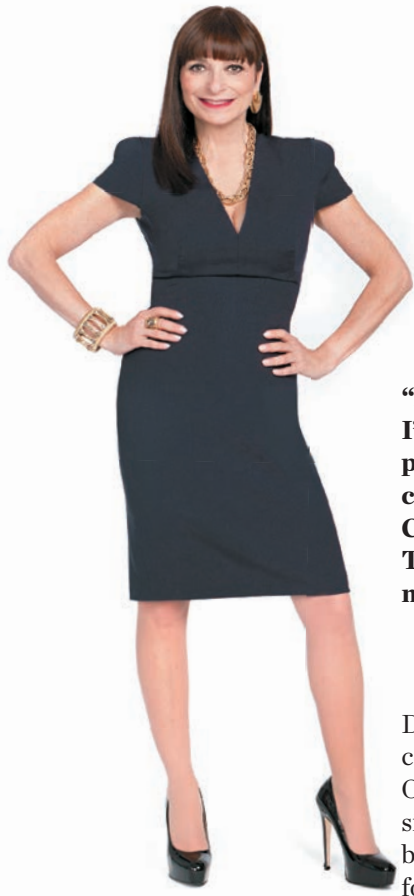
Pretty palettes, spicy spritzes, hair magic and more, page 3

THE NEW FRAGRANCE FOR WOMEN



DAISY
MARC JACOBS

EAU SO FRESH



ask jeanne

HOW TO DECODE THE DRESS CODE

“Dear Jeanne, I’m always confused by party invitation dress codes—Casual Elegance, Cocktail, Creative Black Tie? What do all these mean?”—Karen, Montreal

Dear Karen, I’m with you. Deciphering party dress codes can be dizzying. Once upon a time, it was a simple question of casual, business, semi-formal or formal. These days, dress code descriptions are getting as imaginative as the outfits they hope to inspire. And for the wardrobe challenged, figuring out what your hosts have in mind is often puzzling. But as dreary as fashion dictates can be, in this age of “anything goes,” most people appreciate some guideline when it comes to that often daunting question of what to wear.

Whenever casual is mentioned—Casual Elegant, Casual Chic, or Smart Casual, it means comfortable, first and foremost. Of course, it’s not likely that your hosts have sweatpants in mind, but it does indicate a certain level of dressing down. Formal or Black Tie speaks for itself, but Creative Black Tie usually calls for more of personal statement, indicating that your hosts want you to think outside the box and put more effort into your look, rather than simply donning a tux or evening gown. A Semi-formal or Cocktail dress code tells you to look more polished than you would just coming from the office. You can always turn up your style volume with great shoes and add some glitzy jewellery to a little black dress.

I actually appreciate invitations that request guests Dress With Flair. It leaves lots of room for creativity, and inspires me to go a little out of my way to put extra oomph into an outfit. Then, there’s the request to Dress Beautifully. Since beauty is in the eye of the beholder, that directive can result in a hodge-podge of looks, and is tantamount to saying, “wear whatever you think looks good.” It doesn’t give an invitee much to go on, but it does encourage individuality.

Invitations that request Festive Dress usually mean a spirit of fun is in order, and big statements would be appreciated. One of the most welcome and fun dress directives, though one I don’t hear of nearly enough, is

Come As You Are. It’s usually for a laid-back affair and entitles you to wear just about anything—pajamas included. However, as intent as people can be on expressing themselves—and fashion certainly allows for that—few of us want to look out of place—and that’s precisely why your host puts forward a dress code.

It’s up to you to take a dress code to your own personal style heights, because dressing up is half the fun of going out. And while there are those who just don’t seem to get into the art and craft of party dressing, others can’t get enough of it. Interestingly, most stylish people I’ve interviewed have told me that when it comes to being overdressed or underdressed, they’d rather be overdressed. Just remember that if you carry yourself with elegance and aplomb, you’ll always be admired. So go the distance, be respectful of the code on the invitation and add your own personal touch. That way, you’ll never go wrong.—Jeanne

Send your questions to askjeanne@thekit.ca. Follow @Jeanne_Beker on Twitter.

Jeanne is a contributing style editor to the Toronto Star. FashionTelevision airs Sundays at 5:30 p.m. ET on CTV.



ILLUSTRATION: FREDERICK WATSON

PRODUCTS: GEOFFREY ROSS (SHOES, SHIRT AND BAG), ZOE SALDANA; GETTY IMAGES.

WHAT WE WANT THIS WEEK

TOP THE KIT LIST

SHOE KIT

LADYLIKE OXFORDS
Shiny black shoes look dainty and feminine with a soft round toe and only two holes to lace up. Joe Fresh flats, \$59, joefresh.com



ACCESSORIES KIT

YELLOW SCARF
Brighten up your beige trench, dark jeans or all-black wardrobe with this soft, silk-blend scarf. \$225, kumaris.ca

BODY KIT

SPICY SPRITZ
Cardamom, juniper, wood and amber is perfumer Jean Claude Ellena’s crisp but warm concoction for the new Voyage d’Hermès Eau de Parfum, a spicy follow-up to the original toilette. EDP, \$115 (35 ml), Hermès boutiques, 416-968-8626, and Holt Renfrew

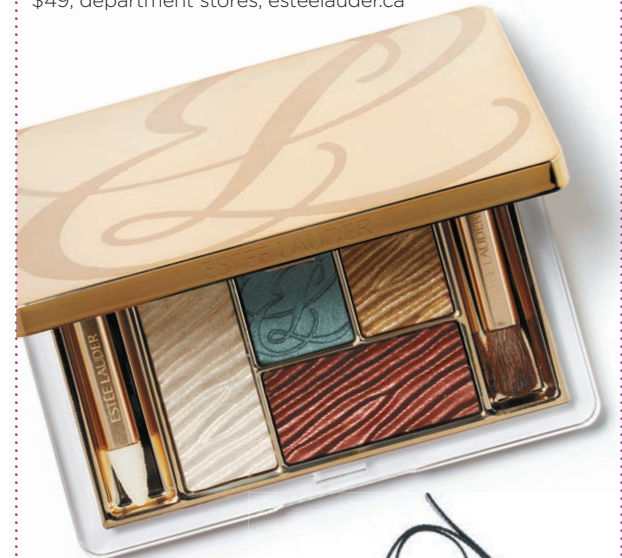
CLOTHING KIT

CUTE TOP
Ready for summer? So are we. But the weather isn’t quite warm enough for sleeveless, so this fluttery sleeve top is an ideal transition piece. Polyester blouse, \$30, winners.ca



FACE KIT

EYE PALETTE
This palette features technology that combines liquid, powder and gel for a silky, crease-resistant finish. Just another beautiful day on the yacht! Estée Lauder Pure Color Five Color Gelée Powder EyeShadow Palette, \$49, department stores, esteelauder.ca



HANDBAG KIT

GOOD JEANS
Denim is always a do! Match this jean and leather number with your favourite summer dresses in bright colours. Chloé Marcie denim and leather shoulder bag, \$1,325, net-a-porter.com. Chloé accessories also at Holt Renfrew.



HAIR KIT

BLACK MAGIC
Twice a Week Miracle Shampoo is the personal assistant of hair products. Why? Because of all the free time you’ll suddenly have. \$24, black15in1.com

one-minute miracle

WELL LUBRICATED

BY CHANTEL GUERTIN

Trust me on this: oily products won’t make your hair oily. Just the opposite. The oil helps rebalance your scalp’s natural oils, so it’s not overproducing. Once I started using hair oils, I cut my weekly hair-washing from daily to twice a week.

Splurge: Redken All Soft Argan-6. Worth every penny for how soft it makes your hair. **Best Buy:** Dove Nourishing Oil Care Anti-Frizz Serum. Great to throw in your gym bag. **NYFW Backstage Secret:** L’Oréal Professionnel Mythic Oil. I’m obsessed with how this makes hair look in photos, so remember it for wedding season.



Zoe Saldana

L’Oréal Professionnel Mythic Oil, \$24, at select salons, lorealprofessionnel.ca. Dove Nourishing Oil Care Anti-Frizz Serum, from \$8, at retailers, facebook.com/dove. Redken All Soft Argan-6, \$35, redken.ca

on the cover revisiting the TRENCH COAT

Perfect for on-the-clock or off-duty, the trench silhouette gets a refreshing update with new colours, fabrics and cuts this season. The universally flattering shape instantly cinches in the waist and creates a fab hourglass figure

BY VANESSA TAYLOR



THE CLASSIC

The contrasting piping gives the camel trench coat a modern twist. **TIP:** Swap out the fabric belt for a leather belt in a neutral brown or a muted print to personalize this piece. Attitude Jay Manuel polyester-blend trench coat, \$170, at select Sears locations



THE LITTLE BLACK TRENCH

A chic, cropped style instantly pulls together any spring look. **TIP:** Ideal for petite body types, this style offers a figure-flattering silhouette with a defined waist, but doesn't crop into the leg line on a shorter frame. Reitmans cotton-polyester trench coat, \$85, reitmans.com



THE BRIGHT COAT

A lively colour pairs well with a basic or all-black outfit. **TIP:** This streamlined style is perfect for someone who wants to minimize a larger bust or hips. Gap nylon mac, \$109, gapcanada.ca



THE TRENCH VEST

This sleeveless version boasts all the details of a trench coat but takes on a safari-esque look—perfect for the urban jungle. **TIP:** Look for lightweight fabrics (or leathers, like this perforated version) that are tailored but not tight to the body. Danier leather vest, \$349, danier.com



Blake Lively

WEAR FLORALS



YOU SHOULD

CERI MARSH

The pendulum of fashion trends requires that a few seasons of lady-like restraint will be followed by a whole bunch of va-va voom. The need for change keeps the fashion globe spinning and shoppers motivated. And a novice observer of such things could be excused for sizing up spring's florals as the natural balance to winter's rich colours. But are we beginners here? (Ahem.) The flowers blossoming this year aren't the soft and sweet prints of spring past. The Kit's fashion editor, Vanessa Taylor says, "these are take-charge florals in bright, bold colours. The result is a more graphic look achieved, with an oversize scale and a high-contrast palette." It's not about flower power—these are power flowers.

"I think we're print hungry," says Susie Sheffman, fashion director at Canadian online fashion website, Dealuxe.ca. Think of it as a natural extension of the desire for more colour that designers have been responding to over the last few seasons. "Anything that you're going to put on this season looks better blooming."

Designers Erdem, Peter Som, Proenza Schouler and Canada's own Denis Gagnon were all pushing petals for spring. You'll find acres of botanicals at H&M and Zara right now and a few pieces at J.Crew. But the strongest argument

for a new take on florals came from London-based, Athens-born designer Mary Katrantzou, whose head-to-toe matching flower prints in vivid colour blocks spoke more to contemporary art than anyone's garden. (Rush to Topshop and you might still be able to snag a piece of the line Katrantzou created for them.)

The edgiest way to try the trend may be matching head-to-toe, but does that seem like a big commitment? Sheffman recommends pairing prints with black, grey or other neutrals to keep them looking modern. A sleek silhouette is essential, too. A sharp jacket and pointy-toe pumps add punctuation to flowery trousers. And fear not, the trend for more pattern continues. The floral pants that look just right with a white tank top this summer will look just as good with a black turtleneck in the fall.

But the biggest explosion of flower prints will undoubtedly be in the denim market. Rose red jeans? Got to have them. Fuchsia? Oh, OK, one more pair. Patterns? Bring it on. Sheffman is eagerly awaiting the imminent arrival of floral denim by Rich & Skinny, J. Brand and 7 for All Mankind. "All winter I wore coloured jeans and now I'm moving onto florals."

THE LIFESTYLE STREET STYLE



CITY HALIFAX

NAME DANIELE STEWART

AGE 21

WHERE SPRING GARDEN AND DRESDON ROW

OCCUPATION FINE-ART STUDENT & CERAMICS TEACHER

WHAT IS SHE WEARING?

Boots from Etsy, coat from The Bay, hat from the Dollar Store, American Apparel pants and an Urban Outfitters backpack

INSPIRATION

"The colour beige."

BY PHOTOBLOGGER CELIA MOASE, CELIASPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

what's in your: EASTER WEEKEND KIT

Going home to visit family or sneaking off for a romantic long weekend? Resist the urge to over-pack **BY** VANESSA GRANT

READING MATERIAL

Cozying up with a good book will make your flight, train or car ride fly by. *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen (Sterling Publishing), \$10, indigo.ca

SPRING STAPLE

Not only will a pretty scarf keep spring breezes at bay, it will perk up any outfit. **Banana Republic** silk-wool scarf, \$74, bananarepublic.ca

FACE IN A CASE

All the makeup you need, just bring your own mascara. **Benefit** Cabana Glama Kit, \$42, at Murale, Sephora, Shoppers Drug Mart

ESSENTIAL TOILETRIES

Bring all your toiletry essentials from home without the bottle bulk. **Farley Co.** Mon Image travel bottles, \$6 (for 4-pack), farleyco.ca

MADE FOR WALKING

Not only are these Chucks comfy, they're low-profile and light—perfect for packing. **Converse** Chuck Taylor Dainty canvas sneakers in Aruba Blue, \$65, converse.com

OVERNIGHTER

This mini duffel is an instant pick-me-up, no matter the weather where you're headed. **Roots** Selina Italian leather bag in Sunshine Yellow, \$298, roots.com

PRODUCTS: GEOFFREY ROSS; OFF-FIGURE STYLING: BREANNA GOW; JUDY INC. LIVELEY; GETTY IMAGES

NEWS



TRUMP THAT

If clothes make the woman, we're going to take successful business woman and socialite **Ivanka Trump's** new fashion collection very seriously. We can't all be born a Trump, but perhaps dressing like one will help us get ahead. The heiress, entrepreneur and occasional reality TV guest star recently launched her fashion collection at **The Bay**. The office-appropriate dresses, blouses, cardigans and skirt suits come on the heels of Trump's footwear and handbag lines, launched in 2010 and 2011, respectively. Pieces range from a reasonable \$50 to \$225, available at select The Bay stores. Find the bags and shoes online at thebay.com.

SNAIL FACIALS



It's natural beauty at its finest. Skincare experts in Asia have been using snail slime in high-end facial creams since 2009, but a spa in Russia has recently taken the trend one step further—actually applying live snails to clients' faces. Snail slime is high in glycolic acid and elastin, making skin appear smoother and increasing cell turnover. It also improves the appearance of scars, wrinkles and acne. If you're curious, you can buy one of **Labcconte USA's** many snail slime-based products, from \$45, at labcconteusa.com.

BOURJOIS
PARIS

PLAY

the Bourjois Paris Matchup Game and you could

WIN

a Bourjois Paris Prize Pack, loaded with goodies!

Value: \$250

VISIT
THEKIT.CA/GAMES
TO BEGIN



THE
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BEAUTY &
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SHOPPING



HANDBAG KIT
GLYNNIS MAPP

FASHION

EASTER PARADE

Brighten up your side of the street with peach, green, yellow and rose

Sorbet shades flooded Spring 2012 runways: yum-worthy pinks, peaches, greens and lavenders, all good enough to eat—and wear. Armani Privé, Elie Saab and Chanel all used pretty, powdery pastels in their collections. Celebs have been spotted wearing the look on the street and at invite-only galas, too. If you think wearing a light handbag is too tricky, simply work it into your wardrobe by introducing it to the other neutrals in your closet—beige, camel, off-white.



SADDLE BAG
Nine West Take Me Home Saddle Bag, \$95, ninewest.ca



THE RIGHT WRISTLET
Object leather travel wallet, \$89, at Danier stores



PRETTY CLUTCH
Forever 21 pleather crossbody bag, \$30, forever21.com



SWEET SATCHEL
Aldo Picketpin naugahyde bag, \$55, aldoshoes.com



TRENDY TOTE
Coach Bleecker Legacy vachetta leather weekend tote, \$598, coach.com



Nicky Hilton



Jessica Biel



FACE KIT
JANINE FALCON

BEAUTY

IT'S THE BALM

How can you stop at just one?

Seems all the cool companies are making lip balms now. Stick balm in particular is better than ever, more emollient and conditioning than the waxy sticks of old. And the variety of finishes, from clear gloss to sheer tints to almost-lipstick, is lavish and ample.

1. THE BODY SHOP BORN LIPPY IN PINK BERRY
New, playful stick versions of The Body Shop's popular fruity Born Lippy balms come in sheer tints and keep lips lush with Community Fair Trade beeswax and marula oil. \$6, thebodyshop.ca

2. L'ORÉAL PARIS COLOUR RICHE LE BLM SPF 15 IN PLUSH PLUM
Argan oil, shea butter, and omega 3- and 6-rich Muscat Rose Oil give these sheer tints a silky texture that delivers a sexy sheen as it keeps lips in tip-top condition. \$10, lorealparis.ca



DIOR ADDICT LIP BALM IN CRYSTAL CORAL
From backstage beauty staple to the season's must-have, this balm is rich in nourishing oils and hyaluronic acid to soften and plump with a high-shine finish. \$35, exclusively at Sephora



REVLON LIP BUTTER
This hybrid bridges comfortable balm texture and lipstick-colour payoff, packed with shea and coconut butters. Use a mirror when applying punchier shades; you want to colour inside the lines. \$9, revlon.ca



CHANEL ROUGE COCO BAUME
This luxurious, glossy, grown-up-girl balm contains the hydrating complex used in Rouge Coco Shine, as well as conditioning meadowfoam oil and moisture-attracting cane sugar. \$39, chanel.com



this week's TOP TRENDS COLOUR WAYS

Colour blocking continues through 2012 and these Marc by Marc Jacobs shoes are the perfect way to wear the trend with very little wardrobe coordination. Throw them on with a little black dress or jeans and a green blouse, and you're colour-blocked to perfection.

Marc by Marc Jacobs patent-leather pumps, \$315, holtrenfrew.com



EYE CANDY

Sky blue, soft lavender, shimmering green, sunny yellow—Shu Uemura's cheery little limited-edition eyeshadow trios in Air and Light help banish the last remnants of a time before spring. Wear one colour on its own or team a bright with an earthy shade for depth and definition.



\$49 each, at select Holt Renfrew locations

THE KIT GIRL

NAME
SAMANTHA
DIAMOND
CITY MONTREAL
OCCUPATION
HAIRSTYLIST
**DESCRIBE YOUR
STYLE:** "LADYLIKE
AND WOMANLY."

Dressing well is routine for Samantha Diamond. "I dress up everyday," says the perky, elegant co-owner of Salon Sweet William, nestled in the hip Montreal neighbourhood of Mile End. Aware of trends, Diamond focuses more on dressing to her body shape; skirts are her staple, accessorizing with colour, prints and anything from a blazer to a men's shirt. She loves her figure—curvy and voluptuous. "I've accepted that this is my shape: curvy. Like Sophia Loren and Brigitte Bardot." The sought-after hairstylist has always been drawn to the arts, and from a young age, music and film inspired her education as well as her clothing choices. At 21-years-old, she was voted one of the Top 10 Newcomers—before she even had her first chair—and Top 10 Men's Stylist the following year. Thirteen years later, Diamond's ladylike sensibility is right at home in her two-year-old salon, filled with a mélange of vintage and modern décor. Her style secret? She's a Monday shopper. Stores are empty and she can take her time trying on everything that catches her eye. "I put all my the effort into the shopping so that getting dressed in the morning doesn't take any time."



WHAT IS SHE WEARING?

Paisley top and electric blue skirt by Zara, with boots from Ecco and tights from Donna Karan. Her frames are Video from Georges Laoun.

trending now

In an industry where creating fads is the norm, Samantha Diamond follows her own, more feminine philosophy

BY VANESSA MURI



STYLE ROLE MODEL

Lauren Bacall



FAVOURITE SHOPS

Unicorn, Les Étoffes, Banana Republic



BEAUTY SECRET

Bobbi Brown Apricot Blush, \$28, at Holt Renfrew and Murale.

FASHION FAVES

Miu Miu floral lace A-line dress, \$2,265, net-a-porter.com



Marni earrings, \$510, net-a-porter.com. Marni accessories also at Holt Renfrew.

THE KIT.CA



Naomi Watts

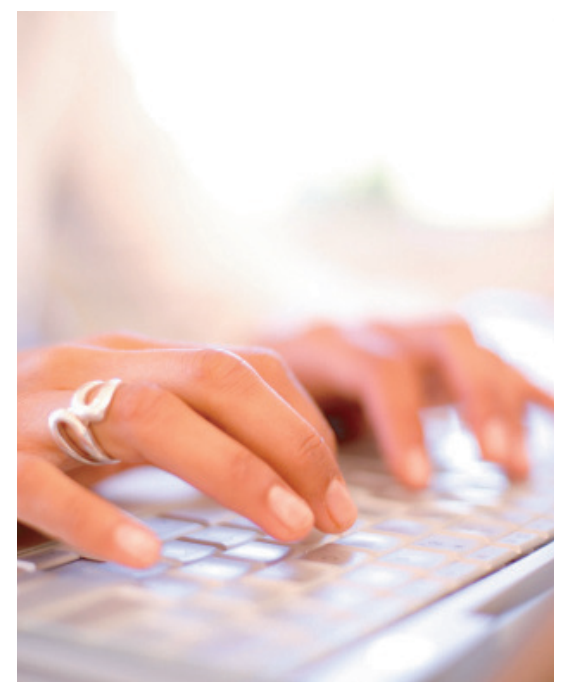
GREAT HAIR AT ANY AGE

Like our skin, our hair changes as we age. Inspired by our favourite celebrities, we've gathered tips and tricks from expert stylists for the shiniest, thickest, best hair in your 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s and 60s. Head to TheKit.ca/right-look-right-age/forties/fight-grey-hair-and-keep-it-shiny-in-your-40s



BEST SUMMER FLATS

We've rounded up the shoes you'll be wearing all summer long. Get the scoop on 2012's most stylish flats from flip-flops to pretty party sandals. Visit TheKit.ca/fashion/shoes/flat-summer-shoes-for-every-occasion



EDITORS' BLOGS

Want more Kit tips and insight? Check out the **Blog Ambition** section for favourite trends and products from our expert editors and special panel of Kit-approved fashion and beauty bloggers.



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*77 women - consumer test. **In vitro test.

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