

First **AVENUE**



Amal's
having
a baby too

**Chrissy
Teigen**
at the Airport

Splurging
on Slouchy
Boots

**Selena
Gomez**
in red

BEYONCÉ
and the Bump

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From
THE EDITOR



Beyoncé - PAGE 34

Wow!! There's so much to talk about in this issue and every page contains dreamy looks and trends to help you with fashionable shopping in the months ahead.

Beyoncé has managed to steal the world stage with her baby-to-be and the styles she wore to celebrate that! Look no further than First Avenue to find out the looks to show off if you are a mother-to-be.

We take a look at the grown-up dresses and colors of Selena Gomez, Chrissy Teigen's daring airportwear, Amal Clooney's announcement and her choices, as well as a classy selection of new handbags and the scorching Slouchy Boots!

Get the recent catwalk action here and don't forget to grab some of your fave jeans as they are back in style!

Red and black are in.

Splurge in style this Spring!

Myles Mellor

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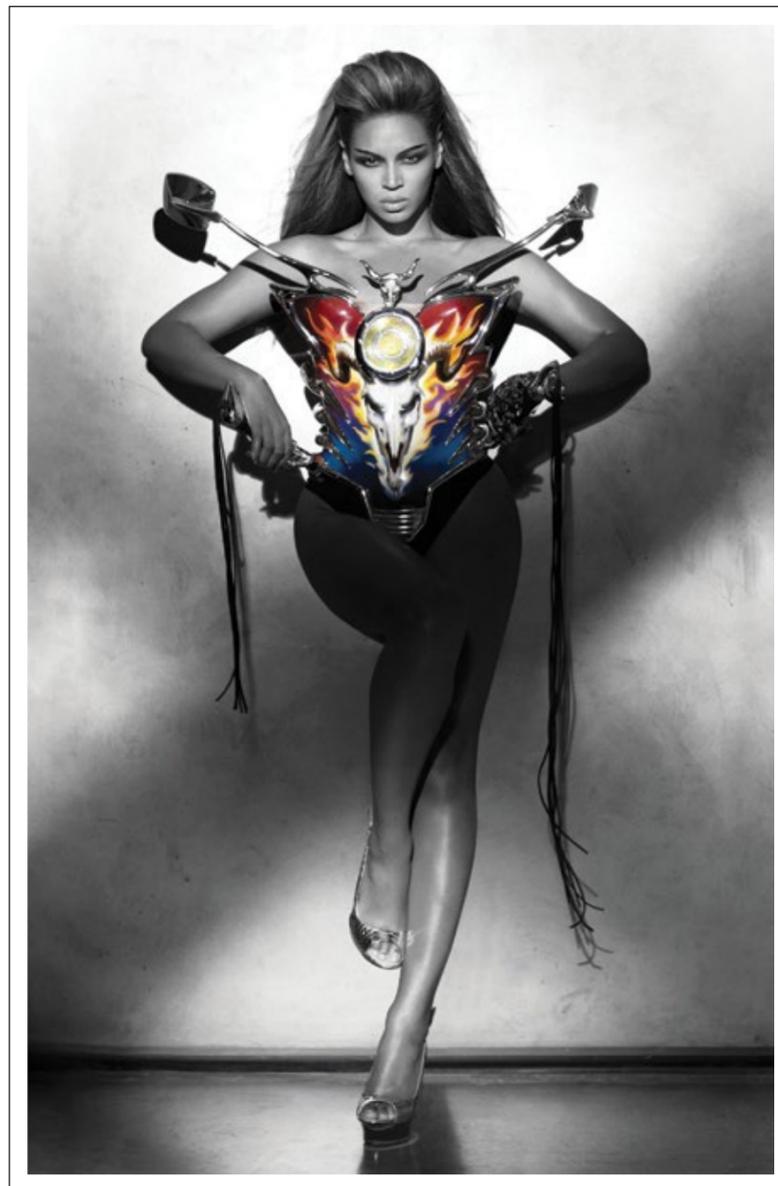
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the Nights collection

J. DEL POZO

steal her style...

Chrissy Teigen's luxury LAX look

There are so many things we love about Chrissy Teigen.

In case you're keeping note, her ability to always keep it real – whether it's by proudly showing off pictures of her cellulite on her social media account, taking a mid-red-carpet break at the Golden Globes and sitting down to rest her tired feet, or candidly opening up about her battle with postpartum depression after giving birth to her and John Legend's adorable little girl, Luna – definitely comes out on top. But her impeccable, effortless and extremely enviable style, both on and off the red carpet, comes a close second, and it really isn't hard to see why. Take one of her latest off duty looks for example...

The model turned TV presenter really proved that she's a player in the top fashion league with her covetable airport style as she strolled through LAX. While most air travellers would be forgiven for bundling their hair in a top knot and putting on their comfiest pieces of loungewear, that isn't exactly how Chrissy Teigen rolls. Instead of going down the athleisure route, Chrissy has decided to take the term "airport runway" extremely literally, as her latest outfit combo makes her look like she is ready to hit the catwalk as opposed to board a plane. Here is why we are obsessed with her top to toe look, and more importantly, how you can get in on the action yourselves. We must warn you though, this isn't the budget-friendliest of ensembles, but the sheer impact and wow factor makes it totally worth it.



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Regardless of the weather or time of day (or night), no celeb look is complete without a token pair of shades to protect the eyes from those pesky paparazzi camera flashes. Luckily you don't have to be an A-lister or running away from the paps to wear your sunglasses inside and outside the airport, especially when attempting to steal Chrissy Teigen's style. The look wouldn't work without the Linda Farrow sunnies, which is why we all need to rejoice and jump for joy that the exact ones Ms Teigen is wearing are in stock on her website. Linda Farrow 425 C1 aviator sunglasses in yellow gold, £720



Let's start with the cardigan – i.e. the stand-out piece that pretty much makes the outfit. Hot off the Gucci Resort 2017 runway, this cardigan is the Mohawk of cardigans: business in the front, party in the back! The party we are referring to comes in the form of a stunning Bengal tiger, embellished with the finest and most bedazzling crystals imaginable. The "Blind For Love" quote at the back also adds something special. Gucci embellished cardigan, £3,230



The final piece in our Chrissy Teigen style steal puzzle comes courtesy of not one but two black bags. The handbag that Chrissy is rocking so flawlessly is a Celine python mini belt bag – a true icon in bag form – although the exact version is no longer available to purchase online. Sob! Luckily, there's no shortage of wow-worthy black handbags in the world, so we'll let you improvise with one of your existing pieces of arm candy, or allow you to splurge on a brand new luxury black handbag of your choice.

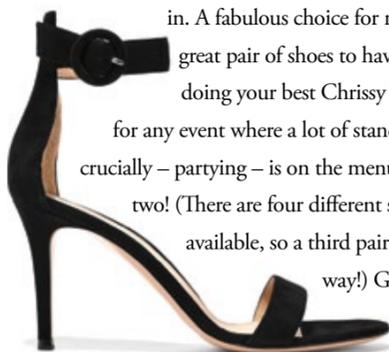


You'd be a fool to purchase the Gucci cardigan and not snap up the matching trousers to accompany your outfit. At least that's the mind-set we think Chrissy Teigen had. She complemented her Gucci cardigan with the matching trousers, something we would really encourage if you want to steal her style. Go big or go home, are we right? We love the rose beige hue of these trousers



as they're exactly what the spring/summer season is all about. The ankle length also makes them perfect for the warmer months, as they allow you to get creative with your footwear choice. And not only that, but they allow your footwear to be seen from afar, so you better make sure you choose something good. Which leads us onto our next drool-inducing item... Gucci Duchesse ankle pants, £610

The shoes! Now we know why Chrissy Teigen was so keen to show off her shoes – we would do exactly the same thing too if we had these Gianvito Rossi suede sandals. It might not look like it to high heeled novices, but these particular sandals have a much lower heel (85mm to be exact) than some of their Gianvito Rossi siblings, which makes them a lot more comfortable, and easier to walk in. A fabulous choice for roaming around airports. A great pair of shoes to have, not just for when you're doing your best Chrissy Teigen impersonation, but for any event where a lot of standing, walking, and most crucially – partying – is on the menu. We've already bought two! (There are four different styles, patterns and colours available, so a third pair might very well be on the way!) Gianvito Rossi Portofino suede sandals, £550



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Style crushing on... Selena Gomez



Selena Gomez has been our girl crush for quite some time now. We were totally un-phased when her relationship with Justin Bieber went public, and instead, found ourselves totally falling head over heels for her Cali-cool girl about town style.

We wanted to be her best friend – less for the juicy Biebs gossip, and more for the ability to raid her closet in the manner only true besties can. We can dream, can't we?

There's probably hundreds of reasons why Selena Gomez held the title of "the most followed person on Instagram" for so long – you won't find a single person in the First Avenue office who doesn't have her popping up on their feed – and her consistently on point sartorial style

is definitely top of our list.

Since taking a social media hiatus for personal reasons, Selena has undergone quite the transformation, and has come back fiercer and more glamorous than ever. And that's a pretty bold statement considering she pretty much had it nailed from before. Let's take a look at some of our ultimate favourite Selena Gomez looks – from her newly game-changing, sophisticated wardrobe choices to some iconic classics that are nearly impossible to forget.

Whether you've been a life-long fan or are only just acquainting yourselves with the bona fide style maven, there's no denying that she is a sartorial force to be reckoned with, both on and off the red carpet.



1 Our first look comes courtesy of one of her latest – and possibly even greatest – red carpet appearances. Selena Gomez ensured that all eyes would be on her at the premiere of *13 Reasons Why*. You don't really wear Oscar de la Renta and expect to blend into the background, do you? She expertly matched her orange hued dress with some Rebecca de Ravenel drop earrings (look at that colour transitioning!) and some orange eyeshadow. A brave choice – but one which definitely paid off, and has helped her to cement her style goddess status.

2 This next look was a real showstopper for so many different reasons. We bet Selena Gomez was under a lot of pressure to pick the right outfit for her return back into the spotlight, after taking quite a bit of time off to focus on her health. And we don't think she could have chosen a better dress than the red hot Prada creation that hugged her figure so flawlessly and looked like it was expertly crafted just for her. We love how she swept her hair back into a sleek and sophisticated ponytail and opted for minimal accessories to really let the dress have its well-deserved red carpet moment. She rocked a smouldering smoky eye, which was offset perfectly with a subtle nude lip. We adore every single meticulously thought out detail, and can't praise this look enough!





4 Is it possible to be feminine while also giving off an American-casual-cool vibe at the same time? Of course it is – just look to you know who for inspiration. Selena Gomez greeted her fans in NYC in a gorgeously feminine rose printed dress (but the predominantly black and red colour combo made it mature and sophisticated as opposed to overly girly) and gave the look some edge by way of a red Coach varsity jacket. Get used to seeing a lot more Coach in SG's wardrobe, as she recently signed a very lucrative contract with the American brand to not only be the face of its future collections, but to also create her very own line too. Pretty impressive going, we must say!



3 The red carpet isn't the only place Selena Gomez slays – she has seriously upped the ante in terms of her street style too. What do you wear while taking a stroll through the Big Apple? Well, if you're Selena Gomez, no New York outing would be complete without a cut-out Proenza Schouler dress and some elegant, leg-elongating black heeled sandals. We don't know if former Disney Channel starlet Selena Gomez would have opted for a look so skin-exposing on a casual day to day basis about a year ago, which just goes to show how much her style has transformed in such a short space of time. We have to say that we are loving her confidence, and the fashion risks that she is so blatantly taking are really paying off.



5 We love it when our favourite celebs play with colour, and this effortless look is the perfect example of how a simple jeans-and-tee combo can make you red-carpet-ready just by adding a pop of colour. The mustard shade really complements Selena's skin tone, and the long, poker-straight locks are exactly what is needed to make her resemble a true Hollywood goddess. Who needs to squeeze into a figure-hugging to make a big impact?

6 By the looks of this outfit combination, it doesn't look like Selena Gomez is going to let something as tiring as boarding a plane interfere with her style A-game. Selena was spotted at LAX in quite the fashion-forward (but airplane-unfriendly) ensemble. Loose fitting sweatpants and flats are a thing of the past, and in their place, distressed two-tone jeans and a very high pair of stilettos! If you can get past Selena's seriously toned abs (it took us quite a while to stop staring, we must admit), you'll also appreciate the black peacoat and the vintage-inspired shades. We don't think you would catch us (or A-listers like Gigi Hadid, Jessica Alba and Kendall Jenner, among others, who are completely obsessed with the athleisure trend and will find any excuse to slip into their favourite pair of sneakers) boarding a plane in heels as high as Selena's, but they certainly are the ideal finishing touch to her expertly put together outfit. Airport cool just got a whole new meaning!



LOVE to LUST

SAINT LAURENT

Diamanté Slouchy Boots

Forget everything you think you know about luxury, indulgence, and more sparkle than even a magpie could handle. Now also forget every other item you think you need in your life, from your wardrobe to your feet to everything else in-between. Whether you want to or not, you won't be able to think about anything else once you see the crystal-encrusted Saint Laurent Paris boots we are lusting after this month. And probably will be for the rest of our lives if we don't slip our feet into them ASAP.

We saw them glistening away on the Paris Fashion Week catwalk and have been able to think about absolutely nothing else since. New season handbags? Forget about them. That beautiful necklace you've been eyeing in the jewellery shop window for months? Doesn't even come close!

The Saint Laurent slouchy glitter boots stole the autumn/winter 2017 show in the most spellbinding way imaginable, proving that new creative director Anthony Vaccarello is a true visionary who has already made a name for himself at the fashion house. With a grand total of 6,000 rhinestones per pair, we aren't in the least bit surprised that they captivated (and probably blinded!) the entire audience as models including Melissa Stasiuk and Birgit Kos strutted so purposefully and so confidently down the catwalk. We don't know about you, but we too would feel like we could conquer the world if we had those boots on.



Slouchy boots have already cemented themselves as one of the hottest footwear trends of the new season, with many designers from all four major cities offering up some great contenders in the race for boot of the year. This sadly isn't a competition (yet!), but it's safe to say who we would crown as the winner. So, how much will these boots of your, our, everyone's dreams set you back? Where can you snap them up, and when do they officially go on sale? A word of warning, you probably won't like what's about to follow...

So here's the thing about an item so lust-worthy and so highly sought after; absolutely everyone wants a piece of the action. Yes, even when they come with quite a sizeable price tag – almost £8,000 if we are to believe what we read.

Great for Saint Laurent and all the people who currently own them – yes Rihanna we're looking at you. The Bajan singing superstar was lucky enough to slip into a pair hours after they made their debut, making our inner green eyed monsters dangerously on the verge of a true explosion. Put your jealousy to one side for a moment and check out how incredible she looked in the picture she posted on her

Instagram page. How much do you want to trade lives with Rihanna right now?

So back to what we were saying; good news for the designer and world famous singers. Bad news for everyone else. These boots barely had time to make it off the catwalk before fashionistas across the globe were putting their orders in, causing quite a frenzy in some of the biggest department stores around the world. "At Saint Laurent, the crystal diamanté slouchy boot had such an emotional response to it, there's something to be said about glitz and glamour – it's the boot of the season," Saks Fifth Avenue senior vice president, Roopal Patel, told WWD.

The waiting list for these badboys is gargantuan to say the least, and there has been no official word on just how many of these rhinestone beauties will actually be made. Que the hysteria! So we would advise you to stop what you are doing (ok, you can make it to the end of this page) and find your nearest department store to add your name to the list, pronto. Shop around, try different websites and department stores – we will even go as far as suggesting countries and continents.

No journey is too far when Saint Laurent Paris diamanté slouchy boots are the destination!



Hello, Handbags!

The EIGHT pieces of arm candy EVERY woman needs

We bet you're pretty pleased with your existing wardrobe – hundreds of eclectic garments proudly collected over the years to see you through every single occasion. However, any true style maven knows that it's all about the accessories when it comes to completing and defining a look. Luckily for us ladies, there is virtually no end to accessory potentials; and one accessory no outfit is complete without, is a handbag. Ensuring the right handbag is teamed with the right outfit for the right occasion is something of a skill, but even the most seasoned fashionistas could do with a bit of assistance and encouragement along the way. Although we can never have enough handbags (that's what we tell ourselves every time the credit card bill comes, as well as any naysayers who think we have a "problem") it is possible to whittle a handbag collection down to a few signature staples that will see us through every

situation that life throws at us. Sure, snapping up the latest "it bag" is something we will never cease to do, but investing in good quality, luxury, and most importantly, on-trend bags that can be used season after season for any given occasion is always a good idea too. And there's no point spending months lusting after a bag, and even longer paying it off, if it can't get its fair share of outings. We've selected THE must-have handbag styles you need in your wardrobe, as they'll help you look the part for each and every occasion. Versatile, hard-working bags for all seasons go a whole lot further than those simple black bags that we are all guilty of buying just because "they'll go with everything". We aren't telling you to get rid of them, we just want to help you open your eyes and explore other options. Snap up these eight bags, and never look back!



THE STAND-OUT SHOULDER BAG

Shoulder bags will never go out of style, and neither will Saint Laurent, so you know you're onto a winner with this combination. Plus, the shade is simply dreamy! Coral is one of our favourite trans-seasonal hues, and the colour-matching opportunities this bag brings are virtually endless. Not only is it a perfect day bag for when you want to travel (relatively) light, but it's the perfect bag to have at any party, as it leaves your hands free to dance the night away without restriction. The monogram detailing is what makes this bag stand out from the rest – if we are wearing Saint Laurent, we want the world to know about it!

Saint Laurent classic monogram leather shoulder bag, £1,280, available at My Theresa



THE SOPHISTICATED BOX CLUTCH

Ah, metallic has found its way in our hearts and clasped so elegantly between our hands once again! Embrace your inner princess, and snap up this stunning lizard-print leather clutch before the Duchess of Cambridge herself makes an appearance with it and it sells out forever. L.K. Bennett is one of Kate Middleton's favourite brands for a reason; timeless, elegant, and totally fit for royalty. It's perfect for everything from a wedding to a formal, black tie function – and several other events in-between. After all, when did channelling a Princess become a bad thing?

Nina Plat blush metallic lizard-leather box clutch, £195, available at L.K. Bennett



THE DRAMATIC TOTE BAG

Bored of those standard black tote bags? If you want an everyday tote bag large enough to carry all your daily essentials (cell phone, make-up, diary, hand cream – who are we kidding, it’s all essential!) but bold enough to make an eye-popping sartorial statement, then you need this piece of Gucci artwork in your lives. If you feel like you’re stuck in a style rut or just want to add a pop of colour – and then some! – to a monochrome ensemble, this will tick all the boxes! Plus, it’s colourful enough to cheer you up on a cloudy day, and bright enough to complement the sunshine. Every day should be a Gucci day! Gucci Dionysus bamboo large appliquéd leather tote, £3,650, available at Net-a-Porter



THE PRINTED, PLAYFUL OFF-DUTY BAG

Did someone say, brunch? Actually, you can say practically anything, because this bag is hard-working enough to cater to most occasions. We love everything about this bag. From the size, to the playful leopard print, to the added shoulder strap, the extreme versatility makes it exactly what every wardrobe needs. It can be dressed up or dressed down with ease – the styling opportunities are literally endless. Talk about a hardworking bag! Dolce and Gabbana leopard top-handle tote, £1,300, available at Far Fetch



THE GIRL BOSS BAG

Want to look professional but don’t want to draw too much attention to your outfit and accessories? We think we’ve found the bag for that – especially if you want to go for something other than the standard black bag! If you have an all-important job interview or a big business meeting with that prestigious client you’ve been chasing for months, then you’re not going to want any distractions. This bag is subtle enough to blend into the background, but also crisp, sturdy and sophisticated enough to show that you take pride in your appearance and you mean business. And that little splash of colour in Christian Louboutin’s signature scarlet shade playing peek-a-boo is the ultimate cherry on top. Don’t thank us, thank Christian Louboutin. Christian Louboutin Paloma large studded patent leather tote, £1,645, available at Net-a-Porter



THE “NOT YOUR AVERAGE” BACKPACK

Backpacks aren’t just for reliving your childhood. Our schools days would have been very different if we turned up to the playground with this Fendi backpack, that’s for sure. Backpacks are totally hot right now, and we don’t just mean for travellers and festivalgoers. Fendi has done quite a good job of dominating the backpack market. Sure there are a lot of designers out there who will offer you an exceptionally made bag, but only Fendi will give you a backpack with a difference. Instantly recognisable with the ability to turn an outfit from drab to fab in a heartbeat. Fendi’s nailed it! (Ps: if you love the jewel embellishments on this backpack, then we urge you to check out the entire Fendi accessories range, as you’ll find them on everything from purses to tote bags to everything else in-between.) Fendi mini embellished leather backpack, £1,600, available at My Theresa



THE VACATION BAG

Prada has thought of everything with this embellished wicker basket. Prada wants us all to pretend we are going for an adorable picnic in the park with our bestest gal pals – and who are we to argue with Prada? This bag will complement virtually any holiday inspired look – it’s the ultimate vacation piece too! Perfect for the beach and all those outdoor dining hotspots; and perhaps best of all, it has a secure zip fastening to ensure all those holiday valuables such as money and passports don’t go missing. Prada embellished wicker basket, £1,190, available at My Theresa



THE “TOURIST ESSENTIAL” CROSSBODY BAG

No city break would be complete without a crossbody bag – and no wardrobe for that matter. When your hands need to be free to explore and wearing a backpack isn’t an option, only a crossbody bag will do. Luckily, there are hundreds if not thousands of covetable, transitional, multi-seasonal crossbody bags out there right now that would be perfect for packing for a vacation. We would steer clear of the lightest colours so as to avoid marks and stains (sadly these can’t be helped, especially on holiday!) and go for a durable material. This Anya Hindmarch crossbody is everything we could ever hope for. It comes in a variety of different colours such as pink, white and red, but the neon yellow makes us smile inside and out, so that’s the clear winner for us. But go for the red if you feel like you need to grab the sunglasses every time you look at the neon. The inside pockets are going to be life-savers when you want to quickly locate your cash or find your camera for that all-important tourist pic. Anya Hindmarch smiley crossbody bag, £628, available at Far Fetch



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the DENIM dream!

(Trend to Try)



You may have thought that the days of obsessing over denim were way behind you once the early noughties came to an end, but we're here to tell you that your denim-free days are over. Denim is back – and judging by designers around the world showcasing their autumn/winter 2017 collections at the start of the year, it could very well be here to stay. Now there's a thought!

The idea of denim in anything other than trouser form can be a tad daunting for some (we understand, and we'll hold your hands through this entire process) while others will no doubt be rejoicing and digging out some vintage pieces from the back of the wardrobe that were just too precious to throw away.

Denim was a very prominent feature in the Calvin Klein, Alexander Wang and Yeezy A/W 2017 collections, but the styling opportunities

were worlds apart from each other. This can only be a good thing, as it means we have the chance to go as bold or as subtle as we want. Those who want to keep their denim cool and casual should look to Kanye West's Yeezy Season 5 for inspiration. Loose, high rise jeans effortlessly tucked into ankle boots is definitely something we can get on board with – especially as it presents an ankle boot shopping opportunity. Whether you want to update your current jeans collection by trying out a new cut or colour, or give a subtle nod to the current trend by way of a few staple pieces, or go full on double denim à la Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake (can you believe their AMAs red carpet appearance was 15 years ago? Neither can we!) then this is the place to be. We are here to cater to everyone with an expertly curated edit of the hottest denim pieces. Wear as much or as little as you dare!



Let's play it safe and ease you into this slowly, shall we? Jeans are the most fear-free way to start your denim journey – and jeans from a reputable brand that prides itself on the quality of its jeans is the only way to go. You're in safe hands with J Brand; you can't go wrong with a simple, staple pair of J Brand jeans, and we think this pair we've selected is the perfect combination of the new-season trends, as well as the failsafe transitional classics. The best of both worlds! J Brand Carolina skinny high-rise jeans, £215, available at Selfridges



Now that we've warmed you up, how does a denim jacket sound? Not too frightening is it? Especially when it's worn over some of your go-to outfit combinations. Wear with a floral summer maxi dress for a wonderful juxtaposition, or go for a totally chic off-duty look by teaming it with some lightweight summer shorts and a casual vest top. Cropped denim jackets are all the rage right now, as are denim jackets with stand-out additions such as faux fur or lace trims or even patchwork, for example. But we think this one is quite toned down and versatile for all the denim-phobes out there. It's the perfect "throw it over your shoulder as you leave the house" jacket. We predict it'll be your hardest working spring/summer jacket by a long shot! Oh, and did we mention it's only £40? MOTO Fitted denim jacket, £40, available at Topshop



We can feel your love affair with denim really hotting up, which is why we think this is the perfect opportunity to introduce you to Roberto Cavalli's denim coat. Not just your average cropped denim jacket, this Roberto Cavalli masterpiece (there really is no other word for it) will really get your sartorial juices flowing. This coat is everything we love about fashion: it takes a theme – denim – and has positively run away with it. The different colours already made this coat stand out from its competitors, but that clearly wasn't enough for the Italian fashion designer, oh no. RC went one step further with the star-shaped patchwork – the thing we think adds the real finishing touch. This coat is actually from the Roberto Cavalli spring/summer 2017 collection – more proof that he is one step ahead of the game – and also incorporates the new season's seventies trend too. This coat really is the gift that keeps on giving! Roberto Cavalli two-tone appliquéd denim coat, £1,685, available at Net-a-Porter

You can always count on Diane von Furstenberg to put a feminine spin on what could sometimes be regarded as quite an androgynous trend. Add a lace trimmed hem and some exaggerated bow detailing and you have yourself quite a romantic denim skirt. If you want to play on the softness, team with a silk white blouse – the cold shoulder version the skirt is styled with is also a great accompaniment if you want a more casual aesthetic – or even a Bardot cropped top, and subtle accessories to really make the skirt the stand-out piece of the outfit. And with a skirt as stunning as this one, we'd highly recommend it! Diane von Furstenberg lace trimmed denim skirt, £85.95, available at The Outnet



How do you make denim shorts look chic and tasteful? Get the fabric shade exactly right, add some buttons, and put all your trust in Pierre Balmain. Does that answer your question? If you want your denim shorts to be less Coachella-worthy-hotpants and more demure and sophisticated summer attire – regardless of their length – then look no further than these beauties. The high rise waist makes them perfect to tuck even the fanciest and most elegant of tops and blouses in to; not to mention flattering on the waist and hips too. It's the little things that make these shorts so dream worthy; the quilted detailing and the exposed zip at the back give these shorts the edge over every other pair we've seen, which is why we are adding them to our shopping basket with no hesitation. We know it won't take much for you to do the same. Pierre Balmain button-detailed quilted stretch denim shorts, £350, available at Net-a-Porter



We can tell that we've, through no fault of our own, got you hooked on the denim trend; so why don't you try this denim jacket for size? Mix it up with a shade change, courtesy of this powerful 80s-inspired jacket from Marc Jacobs. There's nothing not to love about this jacket – it laughs in the face of every denim jacket you've not only owned, but ever looked at. Crystals, embellishments, patches, peace signs, you name it, you'll find it here! This jacket has everything you can think of neatly – but wildly – rolled into one. We don't think you'll be waiting for the denim trend to come and go to crack this out of the wardrobe – we predict it'll be a firm staple in prime wardrobe position, ready to be grabbed at any given moment. Marc Jacobs embellished appliquéd denim jacket, £745, available at Net-a-Porter



Oh, and while we have your attention, these shorts also come with the most to-die-for matching double breasted jacket. Just putting it out there... Quilted double-breasted denim jacket, £500, available at Net-a-Porter

Buying a denim shoulder bag might have sounded like one of the craziest ideas to enter a person's head a few years ago, but given everything we've seen on the recent runways – and everyone's desire to get people talking with their fashion statements – we think it's rather brilliant. So many of the biggest and most innovative designers have stood behind the "denim everything" trend, and now we are standing behind them too! This Fendi bag has it all: embellishments, a durable leather interior, and a handy shoulder strap for when you want to go hands free! Eagle-eyed bag connoisseurs will know that this is a playful update on Fendi's classic 2Jours tote – it was an icon for a reason, and this too will be a permanent member of your handbag family. Fendi 2Jours petite denim and leather tote, £1,600, available at My Theresa



Why yes, Stella McCartney, we will be having one of your denim playsuits, thank you for asking. The British designer's update on one of the most versatile trans-seasonal pieces, i.e. the playsuit, is quite refreshing. It's the perfect piece for those who are tired of the overly-feminine designs that usually accompany daytime playsuits, and also works wonders for those who want something as casual and effortless as dungarees without actually committing to them. The cut-out detailing at the back is the best finishing touch we could ask for. Stella McCartney denim playsuit, £515, available at My Theresa



BLOOMING BEAUTIES

Work the baby bump in true

Keyoncé fashion

Forget the Trump inauguration or any other headline grabbing event that took place this year. We all know that the biggest news to come out of 2017 came courtesy of Beyoncé Knowles-Carter and that infamous pregnancy announcement.

We all remember where we were when the news broke. Her pregnancy photoshoot was a moment that will no doubt go down in pop culture history. After all, it received over 10 million likes on social media, making it the most liked post in Instagram history. Now there's a statistic! No one knows how to announce a pregnancy quite like Beyoncé. We didn't think anything would top her first announcement, where she proudly revealed her bump after performing at the 2011 MTV VMAs, but the series of jaw-dropping photographs lensed by Ethiopian-American photographer Awol Erizku (remember that name!) definitely gets our vote.



But let's not forget that Queen Bey isn't the only A-listener who is expecting a little bundle of joy this year. Just because George and Amal Clooney didn't announce their big news in the same dramatic way as Mrs Carter, doesn't mean we are any less excited about their new arrival. Or, more importantly, Amal's blooming, beautiful and simply irresistible maternity style. These ladies are proof that the pregnancy glow isn't a myth and is in fact a real thing.

Let's take a look at some of their most gorgeous looks to date, not only to marvel at their effortlessly chic maternity style, but to prove that all expectant mothers can look and feel fabulous during every trimester. Talk about the epitome of pregnancy goals...

Give them something to look at!

We love how Beyoncé didn't let the bump get in the way of her sartorial choices – or her day job – when she performed at the Grammy Awards. Instead of hiding her bump or falling victim to what many expectant mothers do and let the bump dress her, Beyoncé threw caution to the wind and dressed her bump in the finest high fashion and glittering stage ensembles. She made every look hers and completely owned the red carpet, the stage, and all the after parties. Who else but Beyoncé?



Beyoncé and Mini Me

Beyoncé took her mini-me to the Beauty and the Beast premiere while wearing a vivid green Gucci dress previously seen on Oscar-winner Lupita Nyong'o in Cannes back in 2015. And of course, in true mini-me fashion, little Blue Ivy copied her momma's outfit in a matching green ensemble. Are these two the cutest mother-daughter duo in the world, or what?

Why we love this look: This look is a big hit for us for many reasons. The colour choice alone speaks volumes, as it screams "I'm here and I'm fabulous", which some maternity fashion fails to achieve. Don't be a wallflower – embrace the pregnancy and all that comes with it! We also love the fabric of this dress, as it flatters the bump without restricting it. Perfect for sitting down in a movie theatre! If you too have a VIP event and are struggling with outfit choices, then look to Beyoncé's premiere look for sartorial inspiration.

Unapologetically sexy

Did you think that having a bump that is growing in size every second was going to stop Beyoncé from showing off her curves? Queen Bey has never been shy of flaunting her assets, and pregnancy is no exception. She's shared her fair share of sinfully sexy outfits on her official website and Instagram page, and akin to most Bey outfits, we couldn't fault them even if we tried. A tight, bump-hugging mini dress with thigh high boots (oo, er!) and an angelic white floor-length dress are among our favourites. Although who can fault that stunning blue evening dress? All hail the queen!

Why we love these looks: Both these outfits show us that nothing has to change when dressing a bump if you don't want it to. Perhaps Beyoncé would have gone for a lower heel or perhaps an even shorter hem if she wasn't carrying twins, but there's nothing to suggest that Bey is making any style compromises here. We still firmly believe that she felt comfortable in all of her outfit combos, which we think is the most important thing to take from this style lesson.



Under wraps

Amal kept us all guessing – was she, wasn't she? – at this stage of the pregnancy, and she managed to cleverly conceal her bump with the help of a baggy T-shirt and jacket combo (although the fact that this was a very un-Amal look sort of gave it away). It's no secret that oversized garments and bold, exaggerated, over-the-top prints are great for tricking the eye and do wonders for hiding baby bumps (Amal also favoured large floral prints just before going public!), so we would advise all females in the early stages of pregnancy to adopt these tactics until the time is right.

Why we love this look: Expectant mothers usually like to wait until the "safe period" to officially announce their pregnancy, but the pressures to disclose private information for those in the public eye are tenfold. Amal didn't let the pressure get the better of her, and handled it with pure class and dignity. She tried her best to hide her bump for as long as possible, and we are giving her top marks for using all the tricks in the book to keep her happy news private for as long as possible.



Work it!

We had high hopes for Amal's maternity style from the get go; we knew Amal would deliver and this look proves that she hasn't let us down. Akin to Beyoncé who still performed at the Grammys while pregnant (didn't she kill it on stage? We're still in awe!), Amal Clooney showed no signs of quitting her day job while carrying her and George Clooney's twins either. Just look at her completely owning the office attire. And extra points for using those all-important documents to divert attention from the bump.

Why we love this look: If you want to show no signs of slowing down during pregnancy, then you must ensure your outfit reflects that. And that's exactly what Amal Clooney has done! Still rocking the insanely high stilettos and doing it with attitude – what better message to send out about female fierceness!



Keep it flowing

For the days you don't want the world to focus on the life growing inside you, then covering up by way of a cleverly ruched dress or a coat with a flowing, distracting fabric is the way to go. Both Beyoncé and Amal Clooney have had those days and still managed to look incredible, which is a great lesson to everyone.

INSPIRED?

If you too are expecting later this year, or are just preparing for pregnancy in advance – or are just a little bit nosy and want to fawn over the world's most famous yummy mummies-to-be and the fabulous fashions that are available to them – then we've got your back. We've rounded up some of the hottest and most en-vogue outfits to complement a bump; here goes:

For the days you want to hide

We recommend doing an Amal and covering up with a baggy T-shirt and an oversized or fussy coat. You don't even have to opt for exclusively maternity-approved items either – just go up a size or two and you're good to go! Specialist maternity tops are also a good investment as they will come in handy as your bump grows, and also after the birth too!



Hatch Riviera draped crepe de chine dress, £260, available at Net-a-Porter



Maternity high waist jeans, £29.99, available at Mango



Spot print maternity top, £12 available at ASOS



Hatch Gabardine trench coat, £315, available at Net-a-Porter

For those endless summer days

The first thing you would get out the wardrobe when the sun comes peeking through the curtains is a summer dress – and it should be no different during pregnancy. Plus the bold florals double up nicely as a bump distraction!



Isabella Oliver maternity dress, £119, available at John Lewis

For the days you want to embrace the bump

Don't let your love of bodycon dresses take a backseat during your pregnancy. Buying bodycon dresses in bigger sizes may mean that the classic bodycon silhouette is comprised, so we would advise being on the lookout for dedicated maternity bodycons to meet all your sartorial needs. Luckily, with high street brands such as Mango and Topshop offering some very enviable pieces, your bodycon dreams are seldom out of reach.



Maternity twist front bodycon dress, £26, available at Topshop

For the days the red carpet calls

Getting dressed up to go to a VIP event doesn't have to be daunting. If your LBD is your go-to piece for those unexpected nights out, then there's no reason you can't make it work for you and bump! Whether you want a simple black dress teamed with some bold accessories to see you through an event or whether you want to go all out and wow the crowd with a truly spellbinding dress, then both can be achieved with ease.



Blush bridesmaid dress, £140, Lois London available at Shoptiques



Poppie maternity dress, £74.99, available at Chi Chi London



Jo maxi dress, £109, Seraphine available at Shoptiques



Aralia maternity dress, £69.99, available at Chi Chi London



Avery maternity dress, £76, available at Isabella Oliver

Autumn / Winter 2017

everything

you need to know!

We learnt a lot from the Autumn/Winter 2017 season.

Not only did the respective fashion weeks at New York, London, Milan and Paris introduce their latest collections to influence what we will be wearing from top to toe as usual, but this season was particularly special for another reason too. Perhaps as a way of showing a united front and sending a message of solidarity to men and women across the world, many designers used their catwalks almost like soapboxes, and made some pretty influential political statements along the way. Everything from outfits to music to the models themselves was carefully thought out and brilliantly executed to make this season one to remember.

And speaking of models, we're particularly thrilled with the inclusion of Halima Aden in a variety of different shows. For anyone who doesn't know (this won't be an issue for much longer – we predict that she is going to be huge!) Halima Aden is a Somali-American model who didn't let her faith stand in the way of her success. She was the first ever model to rock a Burkini as opposed to a traditional two-piece bikini in a beauty pageant (she was walking in the Miss Minnesota beauty pageant, FYI, where she also wore her Hijab for the remainder of the competition) and has also become the first ever model to rock a Hijab on a major runway thanks to her history-making appearance on this season's catwalks, including the likes of Yeezy, Alberta Ferretti and Max Mara.

So, apart from Halima Aden's undisputed beauty and strong will, what else came to our attention while acquainting ourselves with the Autumn/Winter 2017 collection? Let's break it down to some of the hottest – and our favourite – trends of the new season. Tear these pages out and take them with you each and every time you go shopping!

Modern Female Power

Nineties power suits were given a 2017 update, this season. Less boxy and more relaxed, the suits that dominated the catwalks were the biggest sign of the rise in female power. Strong and powerful with a hint of comfort is all it takes to make a true transition; women have

never felt more in control of their executive work roles, and now their wardrobes have caught up too. Thank you Calvin Klein, Dries van Noten, Céline, Victoria Beckham, Mulberry, Max Mara and Stella McCartney.



Red Hot

We love seeing colour dominance on the catwalks – what could be simpler than shopping for a certain colour and knowing that your look will automatically be on-trend? Red was absolutely everywhere this season, perhaps a discreet way of conveying female power and dominance. Whatever the reasoning behind it, we couldn't be happier with all the red pieces that flooded the runways, particularly at Prada,

Max Mara, Roksanda Ilincic, Preen and Fendi where the looks were so stand-out and memorable. A pop of scarlet here and there is going to make a world of difference to all future monochrome ensembles, but there's something quite powerful about making an appearance – and a statement – in a head to toe red look. We're mentally preparing for our next event as we speak!



Denim

We were pleasantly surprised by all the denim that appeared on the catwalk. As Fashion Month progressed, we were more and more into the idea of denim taking over our wardrobes in the same way it did back in the nineties and early noughties. And as it turned out, so was everyone else! Turn to our “The Denim Dream” feature for a full break-down of the trend, and of course all the ways in which you can get your denim on right away. You’re welcome!



Futurism

Have aliens landed? The space age couldn't have been more prominent this season, and we have the likes of Comme des Garçons, Chanel, Paco Rabane and Saint Laurent to thank for it. Karl Lagerfeld showed us what Chanel-clad people of the future could look like (think

tweed with an intergalactic make-over) while other designers made us question life on other planets. Science has never been more fashionable – or more fun! We definitely would have paid more attention in science class if we knew our wardrobes of the future depended on it!



The Return of the Seventies

We got just as many futuristic vibes as we saw vintage throwbacks this new season. Marc Jacobs, Miu Miu, Prada, Coach and Mulberry took us back to one of our favourite decades – the seventies! Big belts, retro prints, and more shades of tobacco and orange than you can shake a stick at – the seventies are back with a vengeance!



The Classic Knit

Autumn/winter wouldn't be autumn/winter without a few staple knits thrown in for good measure. Luckily there was no shortage of covetable knits on the AW2017 catwalks – look to Balenciaga, Louis Vuitton, Prada, Joseph and Alexander McQueen, among others, to find the knits that are going to see you through the colder months. If you're anything like us, you'll be booking a holiday to chillier climes just so you can wear your favourite winter garments.

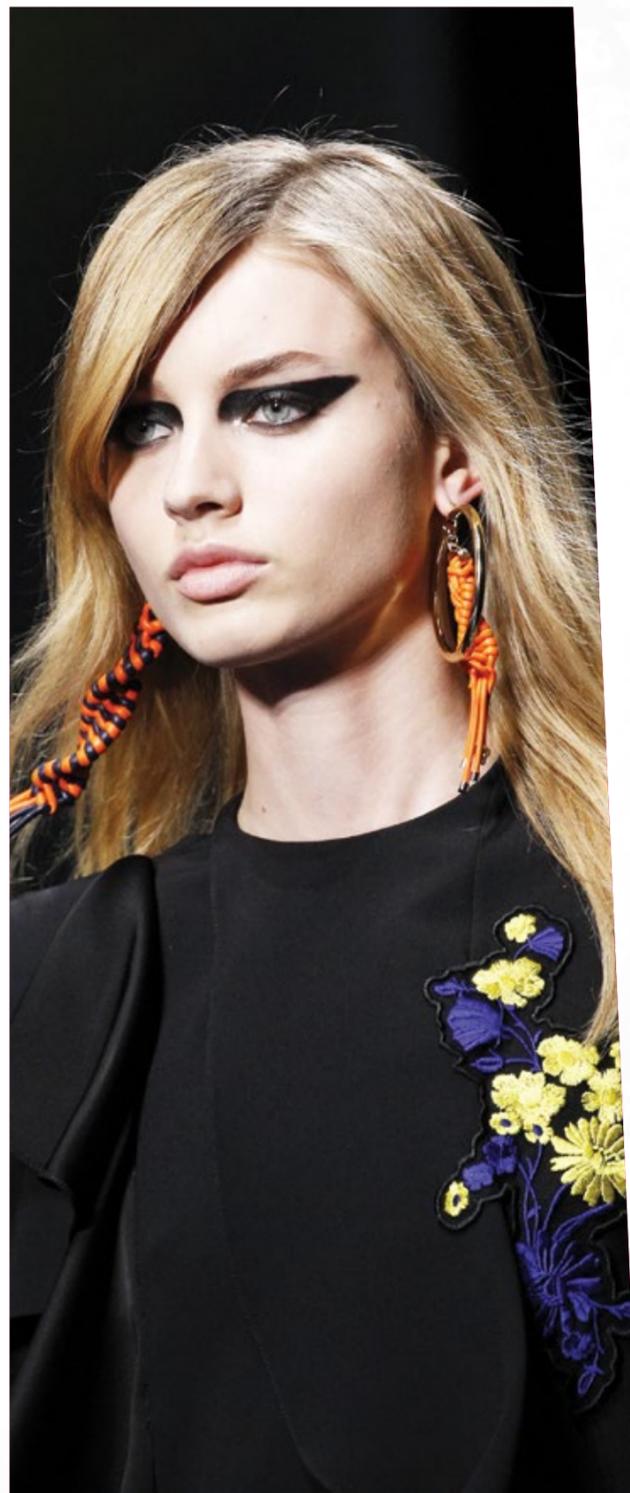


What else will be trending this autumn/winter?



Earrings

Now is a good time to get your ears pierced if you haven't done so already – you're not going to want to miss out on some of this season's hottest trends. The return of gargantuan hoops at Michael Kors and Versace (and with tassels, no less), jewel-encrusted ear cuffs at Mulberry and Oscar de la Renta, more vintage costume jewellery than you could ever dream of at Moschino, and everything up to and including pom-poms at Naeem Khan – this season's earring game was stronger than ever. Take a look at some of our favourite pieces of Autumn/Winter 2017 ear-candy.



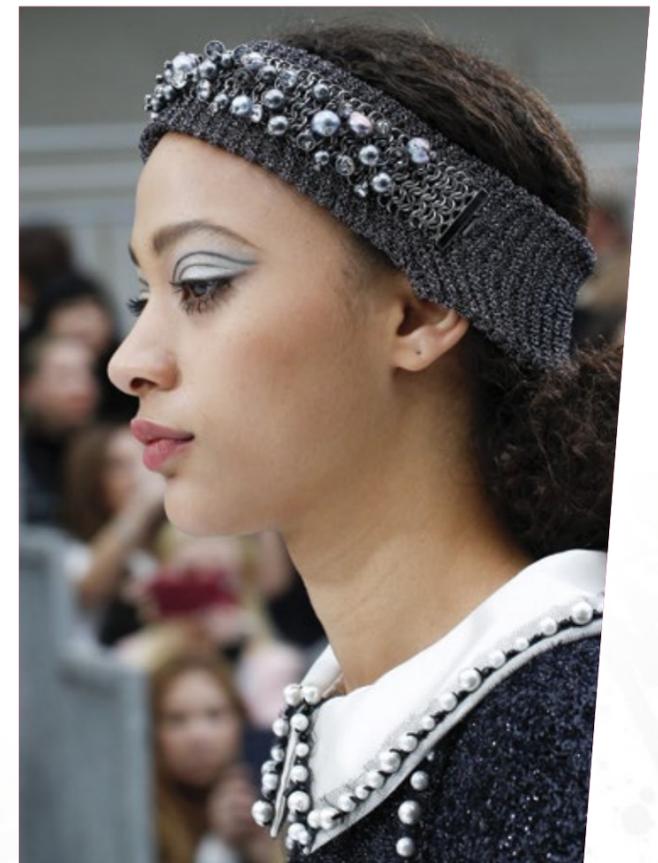
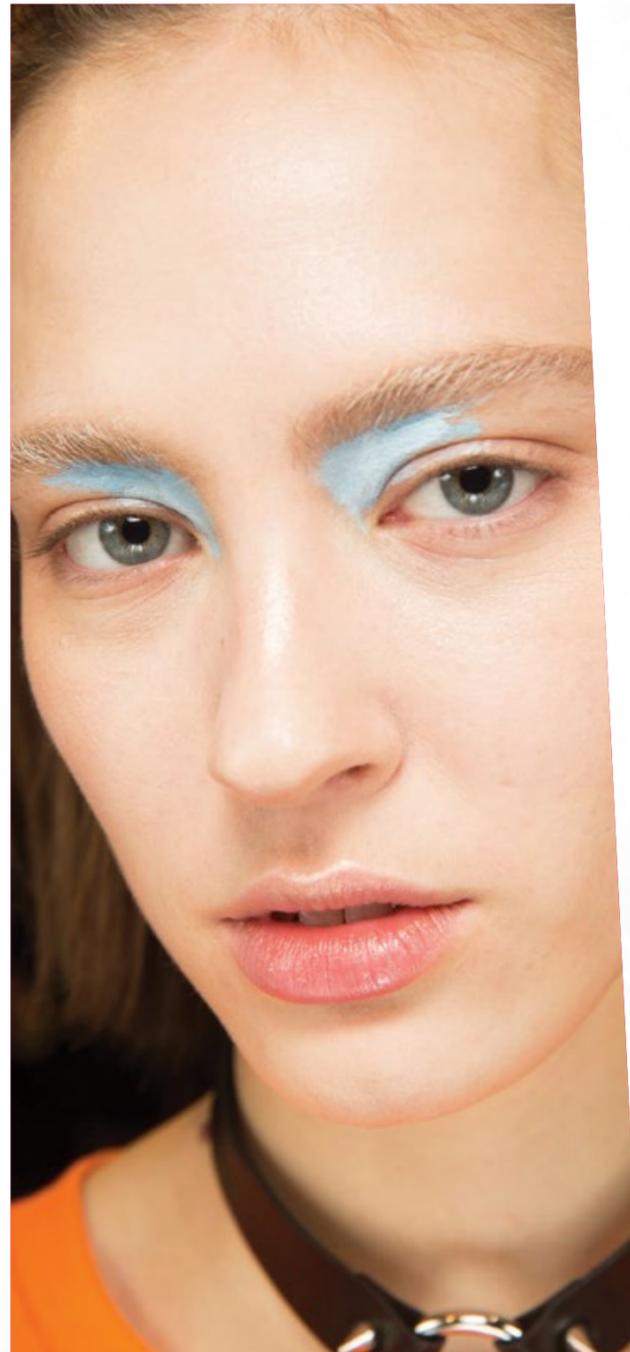
Hair

Karl Lagerfeld gave us the ultimate beehive of the future over at Chanel – we don't know if we are more excited about the voluminous bouffants or the bedazzling accessories that come alongside them; either way – it's looking promising! Ponytails were also a constant occurrence – high (Oscar de la Renta), low (Loewe), take your pick because it doesn't matter – they're all hot! And good news for hair gel fans, because sleek, smooth, face-hugging hair is back in business thanks to Erdem, Carolina Herrera and Eudon Choi. Curls are also a bit different this season; the classic Victoria's Secret wave is out, and in its place, a softer, more romantic wave instead. We weren't sure anything would be better than our beloved wave, but looking at the likes of Alberta Ferretti – where hair was effortlessly thrust into subtle and unassuming hairstyles – and Julien MacDonald has made us want to ditch the curling wand and go for something far more natural instead. Ah, the power of a good runway!



Beauty

And now onto beauty. It was all in the eyes at all four major fashion weeks this season, with eyeliner being a key focal point throughout many of the collections. Bold, smokey eyes are going to be key for staying on-trend, but look to the Prada models if you want to take your look one step further. That splash of colour on your eyelid is going to instantly transform your beauty look, you mark our words. Colourful lids were also in abundance at Prabal Gurung, Oscar de la Renta and Mary Katrantzou, so get shopping for those multi-colour eyeshadow palettes. And we hope you have a steady hand and a lot of patience, because dramatic sixties inspired eyeliner is back thanks to Chloé, Chanel and Moschino. And in terms of lips, aside from Gucci's glitter lips that we are obsessed with, perhaps the best trend to come out of the A/W 2017 shows was the "smudged" lipstick trend that was introduced at Preen by Thornton Bregazzi. The designer was going for a "just kissed" look, which we will translate as, "you don't have to touch up every time you take a sip from your glass". We do love low maintenance lipstick!



Nissan signs actor Margot Robbie

as its first electric vehicle ambassador



Actor Margot Robbie has been revealed as Nissan's new electric vehicle (EV) ambassador by racing the carmaker's radical all-electric BladeGlider sports car around the world-famous Monaco Grand Prix circuit, at midnight.

The prototype 190km/h Nissan BladeGlider, which hits 100km/h in less than five seconds, challenges the conventional thinking of what an all-electric sports car could look like in the future. Showcasing all the fun and excitement of pure electric vehicles, the prototype is part of Nissan's Intelligent Mobility vision of how cars should be driven, powered and integrated into society.

Margot Robbie put the radical three-seater through its paces around the closed Monaco street circuit before racing another BladeGlider. The pair of 272PS performance cars raced through the iconic Tunnel and diced with each other along Massenet before finishing in the glamour

of Casino Square. In the film, the Suicide Squad and The Wolf of Wall Street star is also seen demonstrating the drifting prowess of Nissan BladeGlider around one of the most famous corners in the world of motorsport – the iconic Fairmont Hairpin.

Margot Robbie said: "It's a really exciting time for electric vehicles. More people are choosing to go electric, leading the way to a more sustainable future and the Nissan BladeGlider hints at the future of smarter performance cars."

As the manufacturer of the world's best-selling electric vehicle, the LEAF, Nissan is also revolutionising the way energy is generated and utilised with products like its intelligent xStorage Home unit and vehicle-to-grid technology, which harness the power of battery technology from electric vehicles.

Gareth Dunsmore, Director of Electric Vehicles for Nissan Europe:

"The electric revolution is happening. As the global leader in electric vehicles, and with mass adoption just around the corner, it is more important than ever that we showcase all of the benefits of driving an electric car – from energy efficiency, to sustainability, from handling to performance. Having Margot on board will support us in spreading news of the personal and societal benefits of electric vehicles to more people than ever before.

Dunsmore added: "Nissan's Electrify the World movement recognises the importance of us all working together to achieve positive change in our communities. We want to inspire people to take meaningful steps

towards cleaner, safer cities."

The Nissan BladeGlider was recently on display at the 87th Geneva International Motor Show. Developed from a concept car first debuted in 2013, the all-electric sports car is a precursor to a suite of future technologies that will combine Intelligent Mobility, environmentally friendly impact and sports-car driving capabilities.

Monte Carlo provided the perfect location for Nissan to reveal its exciting new partnership with Margot Robbie. Monaco has a rich heritage in street racing and an ambitious sustainable strategy to decrease carbon emissions by 50 percent by 2030.



SCHWARZKOPF

PROFESSIONAL UNVEILS ESSENTIAL LOOKS

SPRING/SUMMER 2017

ALONG WITH IT'S NEW BLONDME RANGE

Schwarzkopf Professional, a global leader in professional hair care, unveiled "The Essential Looks Spring/Summer 2017" at Sofitel Hotel, Dubai, on Monday. Essential Looks celebrates hairdressers' passion for hair, fashion, the future and encapsulates it into a luxuriously glossy trend book, a digital app, a breath-taking catwalk show and a stage event featuring live cuts and colours.

Taking inspiration from international fashion runways, Essential Looks condenses the looks into distinct trends that are incredibly diverse, each set to ignite creative hairdressers' imaginations. Essential Looks has a proven track record in translating catwalk couture into reality and is now celebrating its entry into the UAE market.

Commenting on the launch of Essential Looks Spring/Summer 2017, Alexander Kiryliuk, Schwarzkopf Professional International Ambassador said, "Instilling the right training and skills is the fundamental growth driver of our industry. Through 'Essential Looks Spring Summer 2017', we aim to showcase and educate the hairdressers' community about seasonal trends; along with holistic training that helps inculcate basic skills and knowledge to become a better hairdresser. The Essential Looks show is not just our image driver, exclusively developed by Schwarzkopf Professional, this single asset will help keep hairdressers at the head of a dynamic curve!"

The hair care giant features three distinctive hair styles this season:



OPULENT

Modern glamour inspired by the renaissance art

BEAT ICON

Urban cool with laidback confidence

COLORAMA

Grungy punk meets a colour explosion



Along with the Essential Looks Spring/Summer 2017 unveil, Schwarzkopf Professional also launched the new BLONDME range which is THE seasonal tool for change from the renowned brand, delivering desirable style direct to the salon door in a usable, accessible format that empowers. The last decade has established BLONDME as the go to product showcasing just how many hues, tones and colours blonde can entail. It is the range that redefined how one thinks of blonde.

"Blonde is simply iconic," said, Andy Smith, Schwarzkopf Professional Creative Director, "Blonde is femininity, blonde is glamour, blonde is an attitude; but above all, blonde is iconic, and true iconic blondes can only be created by hairdressers with technical expertise and unlimited creativity." With the re-launch of BLONDME, the ultimate lightening color and care collection for top-quality blondes, Schwarzkopf Professional empowers hairdressers to create the most sophisticated and timeless shades of blonde with an unparalleled level of perfection.



Dubai Duty Free

Nightingales Win “Best Corporate Choir” in the
ChoirFest ME 2017



A 19-strong team from the leading airport retailer, Dubai Duty Free, was presented with the “Best Corporate Choir” award at the recently concluded ChoirFest Middle East 2017 held on 3rd March at The Els Club.

Now in its fifth year, the annual choral festival organised by The Fridge, showcased top choirs from across the Middle East, including choirs from the UAE, Jordan, Morocco and Afghanistan, in a bid to win the title “Choir of the Year.”

The “Dubai Duty Free (DDF) Nightingales” is a choral assembly made up of nineteen Dubai Duty Free staff members, representing a number of different departments, among them Marketing, Finance, IT, HR, CSR, Display and the Operations department.

Colm McLoughlin, Executive Vice Chairman and CEO of Dubai Duty Free was all praise for the choir: “I’m absolutely thrilled with the

team for winning the “Best Corporate Choir” for the second time at the ChoirFest Middle East. The choir worked extremely hard in the weeks leading up to the competition. Well done and congratulations to all!”

The competition was judged by some of the members of Europe’s premier gospel choir, the London Community Gospel Choir, which has graced many of the UK’s greatest stages such as Wembley Stadium, the Royal Albert Hall and are regulars at Glastonbury Festival. The Gospel Choir also performed a soul-stirring gospel music at the gala evening and also held various workshops for the participants during the one week choir festival.

The “Dubai Duty Free Nightingales”, have participated in ChoirFest Middle East for the past four years and were awarded “Best Corporate Choir” in 2015 and “Most Dynamic Choir” in 2016.

Iron Mountain Incorporated[®] extends global footprint with its first acquisition in the Middle East

Global leader in information storage and management services enters the Middle East with the purchase of the controlling interest in Endless Document Storage Services LLC.

Iron Mountain Incorporated[®] (NYSE: IRM) has acquired a controlling stake in Endless Document Storage Services LLC. The acquisition is in line with Iron Mountain’s strategy to expand its presence in fast-growing international markets by investing in well-established local or regional businesses that can provide similar services and have a similar business ethos. The move into the Middle East means that Iron Mountain now operates in 46 countries spread across six continents and establishes a local base of operations for Iron Mountain’s existing global customers in Dubai, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Middle East, as well as bringing Iron Mountain’s services to new customers in the region.

Founded in 1951, Iron Mountain stores and protects billions of information assets for its more than 230,000 customers, including critical business documents, electronic information, medical data, and cultural and historical artefacts. It helps organisations to lower their storage costs and free up valuable real estate, keep up to date and comply with regulatory requirements, and mitigate the risks associated with storing and managing information in all formats. Its solutions portfolio includes records management, data management, digital document management, data centres, art storage and logistics, and secure destruction.

Newly acquired local partner Endless Document Storage Services LLC is one of the leaders in information storage and management services in the UAE and the wider region. It serves a broad customer base of multinational and local businesses with a portfolio of services that include physical and digital archiving, back-up tape rotation, shredding and consultancy. These existing customers will benefit from Iron Mountain’s category leadership and vision in secure storage and information management, as well as the company’s global commitment to quality service and innovative solutions for reducing information-related costs and risks. Endless Document Storage Services LLC has four storage facilities in the region, which will add 40,000 square feet of storage space to Iron Mountain’s impressive real estate network of more than 85 million square feet across more than 1,400 facilities. Speaking at a customer forum in Dubai, Iron Mountain’s President and CEO William L. Meaney said, “When entering new markets, we look to acquire leading local providers like Endless Document Storage



Services, who share our passion for helping customers to better use their information, while lowering their costs and risks of storing and managing it. Both regional and multinational businesses across the Middle East are increasingly outsourcing the storage and management of their information as a means to lower their operating costs; transition to a digital records workplace; and ensure they can respond in the event of litigation or a regulatory audit. We are delighted to enter this region with Endless Document Storage, combining their market familiarity and high standard for customer service with our global scale and solutions portfolio.”

Speaking at the same customer forum in Dubai, George Harfouch, Founder and CEO of Endless Document Storage Services LLC said, “We welcome this association with Iron Mountain. It is good news for our customers and good news for the region. We can bring our existing customers an even better experience as we draw on Iron Mountain’s expertise gained over more than sixty five years. Iron Mountain is the category leader in information storage and management and as such brings a wealth of knowledge that will help customers in the region manage their valuable and sensitive information assets. It is an important time for the region, with various markets across the Middle East maturing fast and, as a consequence, the amount of information that businesses need to store and manage is growing quickly. We are better placed than ever to meet the growing demand for our services.”

Anna White

Exclusive Interview with

“In a recent interview with First Avenue, Anna White, Occupational Therapist and Director of the A.S.P.I.R.E Vocational Program at Stepping Stones Center, shed light on the services and prospects available for young adults with disabilities in Dubai. The programme was set up to fill a gap in services for young adults with disabilities, which is a problem around the world.”

We hear a lot about the services available for children with disabilities here in Dubai but are there sufficient services out there for young adults?

There are services but unfortunately not enough to meet the demand of individuals requiring these services. There is a huge emphasis on early intervention here in Dubai and I feel that services available for young adults are only emerging. Most centers here in Dubai only provide for individuals under 18's as, once they reach adulthood, they are no longer eligible for such services. These individuals must be transitioned into further services/pathways such as further education, intervention, life-skill development or employment. However, fortunately, there are some centers do offer such programs for these older age groups, within the region.

Can you tell us a little about the focus of the A.S.P.I.R.E program in Stepping Stones?

The foundations of the program falling under the umbrella of Occupational Therapy. The main focus of the program lies in



Anna White
Director of Vocational and Transitioning Services

promoting students' life skills and independence, which range from 12-25 years of age. The program caters to two levels of students (vocational and pre-vocational), based on their needs and abilities.

Do you think there is potential for employment of these individuals in the community?

Yes, of course. Developing new skills or upgrading existing ones is the key to unlocking the employment opportunities for these individuals. Exploring interests and different career choices is of importance. Hence, employment skills should be a major focus throughout the year for such individuals. For example, this can be done through setting up work placements in different settings so that such students may practice their gained skills in a more formalized environment, so as to gain practical knowledge of the work environment. Such skills that can be targeted may include resume writing, interviewing, and finding and keeping a job. They should also receive on-site training and supervision from a job coach.

Did you find it difficult to find companies here in Dubai to collaborate in providing these work placements?



Being Irish, I reached out the Irish community here in Dubai and I was amazed at the response. I found it easy to build an established working relationship with a few reputable companies. These companies are transitioning beyond fulfilling their CSR responsibilities which is associated with sympathy/charity and looking at the benefits of having diverse teams within the workplace as diverse teams have proven to be more creative, motivated and more successful at problem solving. Society needs to move away from the 'medical model' that disability is viewed as a health problem to a social model that views the individual from a holistic point of view.

Going forward, what advice do you have for young adults with disabilities here in Dubai?

Don't give up! Dubai is ever evolving and the services and opportunities available here are endless. However, we need these individuals to drive this forward. People with disabilities themselves are incredible self-advocates. They can demonstrate how lack of accessibility/opportunity affects them, and speak eloquently about their experiences. Both individuals with disabilities and those working beside them must

Developing new skills or upgrading existing ones is the key to unlocking the employment opportunities.

truly believe in making their visions reality. Finding their own success will bring friendship, growth, power and recognition.

Passion, Patience and dedication comes easily when you love what you do.

For further information, please contact the Director of Vocational and Transitioning Services, Anna White at awhite@steppingstonesca.com or call 04-3635433.



First Avenue

at Meydan - Dubai World Cup 2017



Stepping Stones Center for Autistic Spectrum Disorders



Signs of Autism

- Limited or no language
- Difficulty conversing
- Poor eye contact
- Prefers to be alone
- Limited or no pretend play
- Obsessive behavior
- Repetitive play
- Not responding to name

Our Services

- Applied Behavior Analysis
- Speech & Language Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Vocational Program
- Comprehensive Assessments
- Screenings
- Parent Education/Training
- School Shadowing

For more information please contact Stepping Stones Center at:

Dubai@steppingstonesca.com or Tel: +971-4-363-5433

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www.steppingstonesca.com

Premier Motors and MASERATI

Host 'Fashion Visits the Home of Style'

Unique event showcased Abayas from Abu Dhabi-based label Triosa



Premier Motors, the official dealer of Maserati vehicles in Abu Dhabi, hosted a unique fashion show titled 'Fashion Visits the Home of Style' at its showroom in Khalidiya. The ladies-only event held at the Maserati showroom showcased contemporary Abaya designs from the label Triosa, founded by Abu Dhabi-based designer Rania Darwish.



La Cantine du Faubourg

celebrated second anniversary
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