

# FASHION (FAST) FORWARD

Spring is ahead of us and with it comes an array of exciting new trends to try. Two West Rand fashion gurus unveil their spring trend forecasts.

**Ambassador and senior image consultant Marlise du Plessis from Chata Romano International Image Consultancy**

For spring 2012, we're predicting women's fashion to feature fresh colours, dazzling prints and exciting new style updates.

#### Step out in colour

- Pretty pastels are big news – expect to see soft minty greens, and don't be afraid to layer your pastels in ice cream parlour shades such as strawberry sorbet, candy floss lilac and powder blue to create a feminine, ultra-girly look.
- So too is electric neon; introduce a pop of bright aqua, lime, greens, oranges, and hot pink to your spring wardrobe.
- You'll never go wrong with the time-honoured black-and-white outfit. This spring, give your evening wear a modern monochromatic update, with a sleek tuxedo or sensuous gown in cool white and smouldering black.

Flower power is all the rage – from sexy skirts and flowing maxi dresses to floral denim jeans and flirty floral embellishments on bags and strappy sandals. Team this with your favourite floral perfume and you're good to go. Anything striped is also big news, including the classic nautical look. And use your animal instinct by slipping on an exotic reptilian or ethnic African print.

#### Get the look

Opulent dressing is the latest trend. Think elegant baroque, adding subtle shimmer and a touch of ornamental bling detailing to rich velvet textures and ultra-feminine lace. Are you ready to show off those legs? Spring's shorts vary from really short denim cut-offs, to tailored smart shorts, to boyish long shorts (knee toppers that just hit the top of the knee). Finally we can look forward to comfort as high waists are making their way back into style, in stylish shorts, flattering flared pants and sexy pencil skirts.

**Details: Marlise du Plessis on 082 455 3344 or email [marlise@chataromano.com](mailto:marlise@chataromano.com)**

#### Vina Wiggett, Belli Button Boutique in Weltevreden Park

A colour that makes a loud statement is any tone of orange. If you are not brave enough to wear it, accessorise with it. Not all of us can afford to replace our whole wardrobe to accommodate the latest trends, but we can cleverly incorporate them with a handbag, shoes or even a nice scarf. Prints are here to stay another season. Be brave and get wide pants in any print. Tribal and ethnic fashions have been reborn with a new focus on prints and texture. Expect to see lots of stripes – not only on nautical tops but dresses, handbags and even shoes. Summery maxi dresses are an essential to every woman's wardrobe. They are flattering, comfy and can be very smart. Match it up with a loose tunic or kaftan top to dress it down. Kaftan and tunic tops are a must this upcoming season – they work with the prints that are going to be popular this season and furthermore there is one for every shape and size. Layering is not only for the winter months – it's key to keeping your spring outfits interesting, fresh and sensual. Don't forget to finish your look with a trendy hairstyle and make-up that will really set you apart.

**Details: Belli Button Boutique on 083 440 7602.**

**Be adventurous; mix and match your prints to create an edgy kaleidoscope of patterns but don't go overboard. Ensure that your prints complement one another, and be sure to ground them with solid neutrals or minimalist accessories.**

**When wearing neon coloured shoes, bags or jewellery for a fresh and fun look, remember not to wear too many neon pieces at the same time; or tone your neon down with a neutral such as camel pumps or ballet flats. Be dazzled in prints.**

**The ideal length of your shorts depends on the shape of your legs. If you have good knees, calves and ankles, you can wear shorts but no shorter than the point where the upper thigh naturally starts going outwards. If you are concerned about the shape of your thighs, opt for longer or knee length shorts instead.**