

DEPARTURES

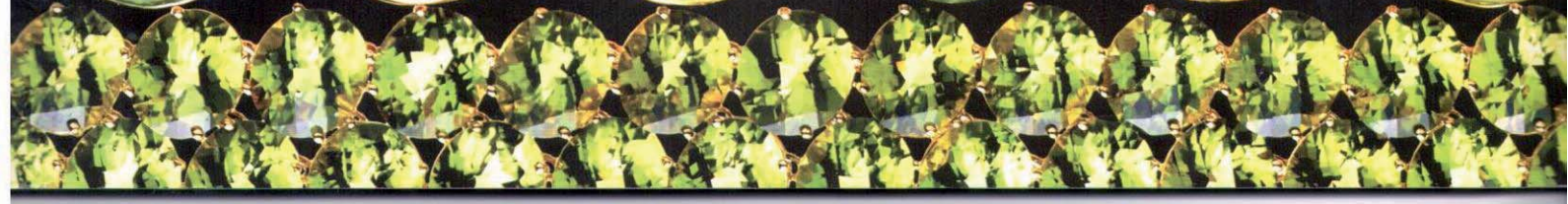
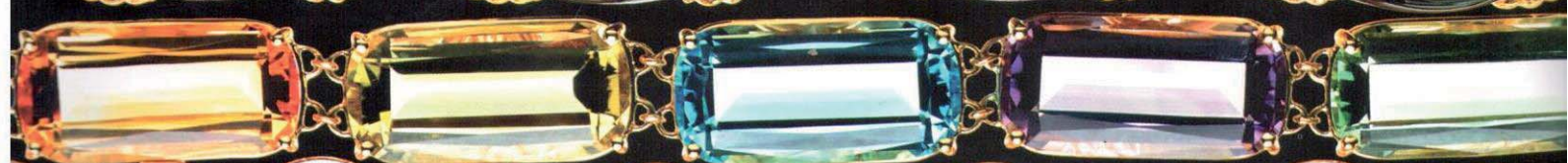


*Big, Bold
Jewels*
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*Your Own
Private Caribbean*
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*Shopping
the World*
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*...Let the
Holidays Begin!*





BERNARDINI
Hong Kong

While sitting at a Milan fashion show, former buyer Adrienne Ma admired a friend's Patek Philippe watch from across the catwalk and asked him where he got it. "He told me to go to Max Bernardini's in Milan, and I've been hooked on vintage watches ever since," says Ma, the daughter of Joyce Ma, whose 43-year-old Joyce boutiques have led the way in Asian luxury retail. After a seven-year friendship as client and connoisseur, Ma and Bernardini have opened a Hong Kong version of Bernardini's watch atelier. "It's the right time to bring luxury vintage to Asia," says Ma. The 1,500-square-foot space in the Central district sells other vintage wares, too, like 1920s silver Asprey Champagne flutes (\$24,245) and custom mahjong sets fashioned out of 1960s Hermès and Louis Vuitton suitcases (from \$8,385). At 4-6 On Lan St., 3rd fl.; bernardinimilano.it.

SOLER
London

Perhaps nothing is so unexpected—or so welcome—as a pop of vibrant color in steely London, and Alex Al-Bader's bright boutique is just that: an oasis of richly hued, one-of-a-kind women's clothing in Notting Hill. Al-Bader, a former model originally from Barcelona, focuses on simple cuts, bold colors and luxurious, all-natural fabrics (as in the Frida top, \$440, and Soler miniskirt, \$585, below). Silk dresses and scarves are hand-painted by Al-Bader's sister, artist Monica Subidé, and customized pieces can be made to measure by the in-house seamstresses. At 88 Bevington Rd.; soler.co.uk.



VANESSA NOEL
Nantucket

Upper East Side stiletto queen Vanessa Noel's Cape Cod outpost is more than just your average resort-town shoe shop. While scouting for a second space, Noel (a Nantucket summer native) realized that the town was bereft of chic, small hotels and decided to open one. She added a restaurant last summer, and guests can reserve a private dining space located inside the shoe shop, where the selection skews toward dinner-party classics like pink suede mules and Swarovski-crystal-caged booties (left, \$2,150). At 5 Chestnut St.; vanessanoel.com.

CZARINA
Monte Carlo

One day you may fall in love with the leopard-print chaise, but caveat emptor: Czarina owner Adrianna Elia (daughter of philanthropist Lily Safra) may decide she doesn't want to part with it the next day. Around the corner from the Hotel de Paris, the 20-year-old shop is still an eclectic mix of rare antiques and modern gifts, from Saarinen tables to carved-bone dice sets (this is Monte Carlo, after all), and certain royals have been known to outfit entire yachts in its custom china and linens. Jewelry includes pieces from Lily's granddaughter, up-and-coming designer Lily Gabriella Elia (diamond earrings, right, price upon request). At 4 Av. Princesse Alice; czarina.mc.



45 RPM
New York

A clever collision of East and West best describes the 36-year-old Japanese company, which has two shops in New York. Plaid and houndstooth flannels are washed multiple times for a broken-in feel, while jackets (left, \$1,760) are made from Iwate wool or homespun Scottish tweed. At 17 E. 71st St.; 169 Mercer St.; 45rpm.jp.