

EASY WAYS TO WELCOME FALL

SOUTHERN *Lady*

favorite
AUTUMN
RECIPES

September 2017

\$7.99US \$8.99CAN

09



Display until September 12, 2017

Caramel Apple Pie
with brandy crème anglaise



Everyday Elegance

Combining classic elements with modern appeal, Dallas-based designer Taylor Miller offers a fresh take on fashion statements. BY Andrea Fanning | PHOTOGRAPHY BY Rachel Heacock

Taylor Miller's brilliant mother-of-pearl pendant, suspended on a strand of turquoise magnesite around her neck, sparkles in the Texas sunshine—and so does she. At age 23, this vibrant designer is celebrating the launch of her new lifestyle brand, Hazen & Co., featuring purses, jewelry, and accessories. The line is so posh and polished that it's hard to believe the items fall into the \$45 to \$450 range, and even more surprising is the fact that this young entrepreneur has been in the business for 14 years.

"Like most 9-year-old girls, I loved to string beads," says the Houston native. "My mother had saved broken pieces of jewelry from my grandmother and great-grandmother, and she let me play with them. I strung them on dental floss and made my own accessories."

As a fourth grader, Taylor fashioned a three-strand choker out of plastic beads from the remnants of a costume necklace and added a faceted faux crystal pendant. Says Taylor, "I asked my mom to wear it, and she did. And people noticed." In the days that followed, her mother wore more pieces, each one garnering attention and even purchase requests. Taylor took a few after-school classes with teachers who had taken up jewelry making as a hobby. There, she learned how to string beads on new materials and fasten clasps. Her passion for the art form grew, and she invested Christmas money in semi-precious stones that she turned into necklaces to sell at her brother's Little League games, where they were a hit. Home shows followed, and so did successful sales.

"At first I was selling out of a shoebox," says Taylor. "But even then I knew my jewelry line needed a good name, and I wanted it to be sophisticated." While sitting on the floor playing dolls with a friend, 9-year-old Taylor landed on the name Hazen—"It just fit." The name carried her through middle school and high school. And even though production slowed during college while she focused on studies, she returned to her venture with renewed inspiration and know-how after graduating from Southern Methodist University's Cox School of Business with a degree in marketing.

To date, she has sold tens of thousands of pieces of jewelry, each one made in Texas. Taylor opened her first storefront in Dallas during autumn 2016, and she also offers her line in fine retail boutiques across the United States. "I try to use materials that you don't see every day in styles that you can wear year-round—it's on trend, but not trendy," she says.

Formerly dubbed Hazen Jewelry, the line's recent expansion to Hazen & Co. has opened even more doors for the charming designer. She says, "I'm very excited about the next phase and new growth. But our overarching goal when interacting with our customers and retailers is to be a joy-filled company creating a joy-filled lifestyle." Adjusting that gorgeous necklace, she adds with a smile, "I hope we stand out among the crowd, not just because we have an excellent product, but also because we care about what we're making and how we're serving others."

For information, visit hazenandco.com.