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Italy

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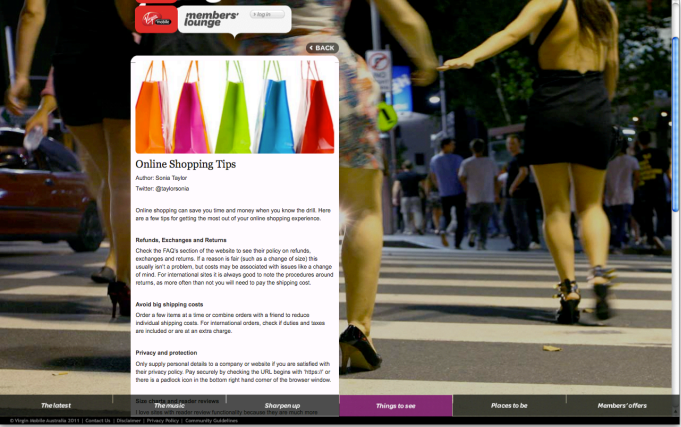
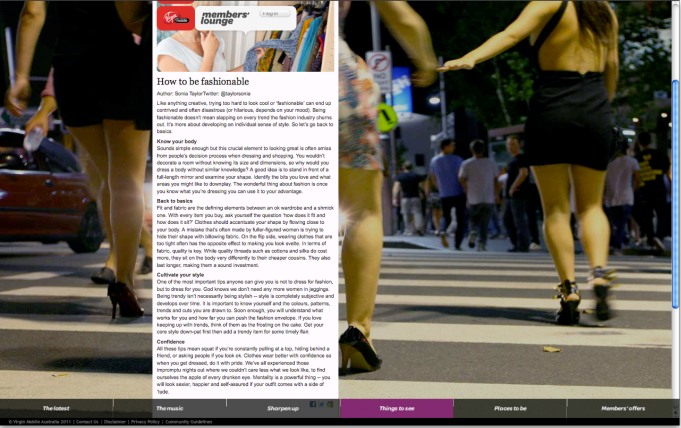
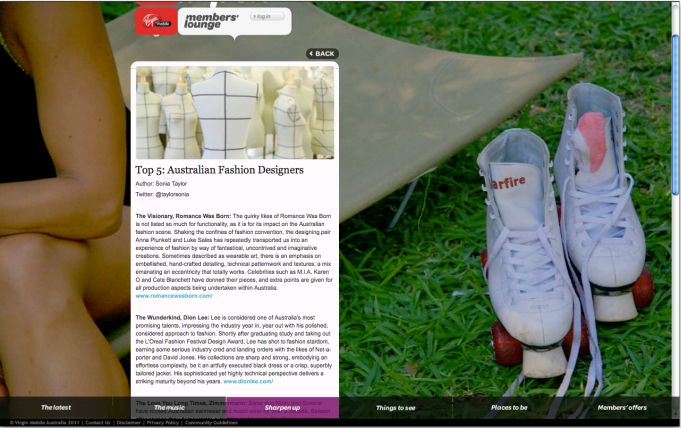
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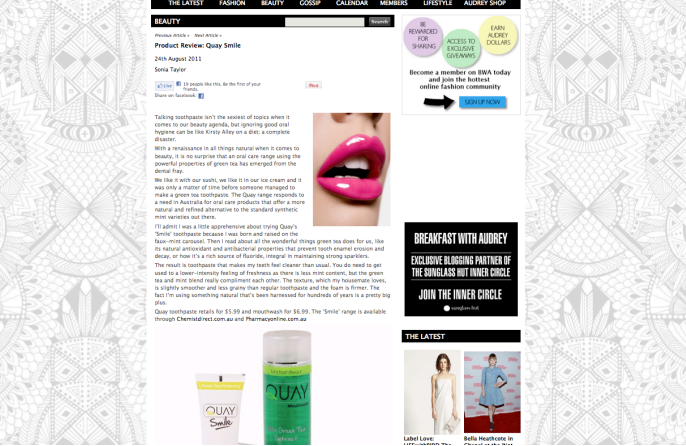
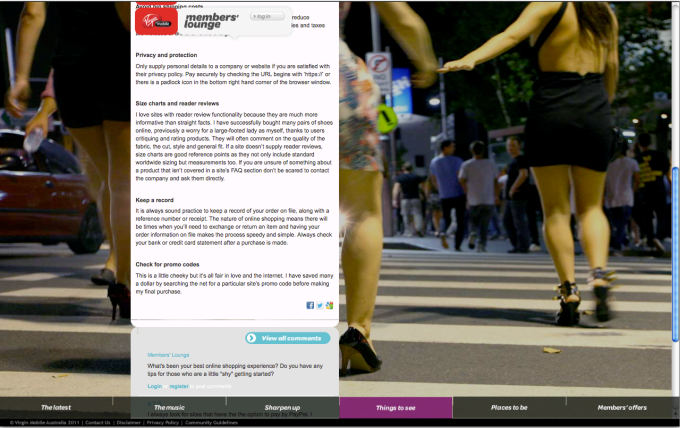
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Breakfast With Audrey
THE LATEST FASHION BEAUTY GOSSIP CALENDAR MEMBERS LIFESTYLE AUDREY SHOP
FASHION HOW-TO'S
Trend How-To: Italian Style
12th May 2011
Sonia Taylor
As much as I would never like to see another 'Italians do it better' t-shirt again, I've got to give the motto some credit. In a country as well known for its food as it is for its fashion, it's hard to fault the authenticity Italians manage to pull off. Why do we get that certain satisfaction in having a label read 'Made in Italy'? Because when Italians do things, they do it well.
A trip to Rome, Milan or Florence is a crash-course in just how right Italians can get it when it comes to fashion. Gli Italiani aren't bothered by trends, instead they epitomise the idea of classic style.
Just think of the Haute Couture influence, covering the likes of Pucci, Prada, Fendi, Missoni, Versace, Armani, Valentino and beyond. There is no argument that Italians and quality go hand-in-hand. So it is easy to spot the tourists vs Italian locals when sipping an espresso and watching passers-by, for the simple reason that Italians swear by their staples. Here are a few tips to channel Italian elegance:
1. Know your body - the bits you love and the bits you loathe. Accepting your shape is the key to dressing it well.
2. Get a tailor - garments are made to a size guide, not made to fit you. A tailor will be the best investment (and makeover) you ever give your wardrobe.
3. Don't skip on quality - good quality fabrics sit better and last longer. Invest in a) a fabulous coat or jacket b) statement glasses (whether for sun or sight) c) killer shoes and d) a well-made bag.
4. Don't wear thongs - ever. Even in summer, Italians don't wear rubber thongs on their toes. Leather is for shoes. Rubber is for tyres.
5. Keep it simple - colours and patterns shouldn't be overcomplicated. Black is perfect in winter, and white is ideal for summer.
6. Work your accessories - a beautiful scarf, a gorgeous watch, a statement necklace, a dazzling pair of earrings; accessories are key to adding personality to your staples.
7. Polish off your look - think of your hair, face and nails as another accessory, which shouldn't be overlooked when putting together an outfit.
8. Be confident - you look amazing! Part of an Italian's style comes from an attitude; the knowledge that, damn, they look good.
1. Hermes Silk Printed Scarf \$550.00 at Hermes.com 2. Missoni Crochet Heels \$350.00 at Net-A-Porter.com 3. YSL Muse II in black, \$1495 at CultStatus.com 4. Missoni Wool Crochet Dress \$1,450 at Net-A-Porter.com
Images: The Sartorialist
ITALIAN STYLE | MISSONI | YSL
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Breakfast With Audrey
THE LATEST FASHION BEAUTY GOSSIP CALENDAR MEMBERS LIFESTYLE AUDREY SHOP
FASHION HOW-TO'S
Trend How-To: Backpacks
25th May 2011
Sonia Taylor
Every now and then a trend comes along that your body thanks the fashion world for. My curves celebrated the moment high-waisted garments were back in and here to stay, and since mid-2010 we've been able to shamelessly enjoy the equal weight distribution necessary for healthy spinal placement that a backpack provides.
Read: a hot bag, sans shoulder pain.
But where have all the backpacks gone? A favourite of Rhianna, Daisy Lowe, Ashley Olsen, Kanye West and even the Belibs, this on-trend functional and frivolous accessory has been a slow-burner to Australian streets.
If you've been thinking about taking the plunge, don't think - just do. There aren't any hard and fast rules to wearing this schoolyard basic, as they come in all shapes, sizes and for all occasions.
I am lusting after this dandelion yellow Marc by Marc Jacobs number that could make a convert out of anyone.
1. Marc by Marc Jacobs Leather backpack £328.00 at Net-A-Porter.com 2. Ecote Canvas Rucksack \$68.00 at Urban Outfitters 3. Black Leather Fringed Backpack US\$160.00 at Topshop.com 4. Cambridge Satchel Company 15" Vintage Leather Batchel Backpack \$238.00 at ASOS.com
beyonce coles daisylowebp selena
Label Love: LIFEwithBIRD The Distance Between
Bella Heathcote in Chanel at the 'Not Fade Away' Hamptons Film Festival Screening
You might also like:
Rachel Zoe Pretty In Plum at The Electric Room In NYC
Kate Moss in Loudbouts in Paris
Label Love: Minty Meets Munt
Vote For BWA and Win an 80ml Lady Million Perfume by Polo...
Anna Paquin in Clover Canyon
20 Comments
What are good american sites to buy cute backpacks at?
I love the practicality of backpacks but they don't always seem appropriate - have to be careful at work, for example. Sometimes they just seem too casual.
I love the backpacks!

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12 Apr 2011

ABOUT GROUP REVIEW

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Author: Sonia Taylor

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START AND COMPLETE

(Domino)

Making geeks look cool since 2003, Hot Chip co-frontman Alexis Taylor is no stranger to the odd side project, this time releasing a second album under the About Group name with Spiritualized's John Coxon, This Heat's Charles Hayward and jazz pianist Pat Thomas.

Start And Complete is entirely its own authentic, ambitious and charmingly unrehearsed jazz-jam of tracks recorded in one day at London's legendary Studio 2 at Abbey Road. Meeting and recording in a day sees this record described as an "inspired act of musicianship" with the focus on improvisation.

The soulful Teddy Riley rework, "You're No Good" emerges as an 11-minute jazz-funk tune. "Start and Complete" references honky tonk piano work and the poignant softness of "Nothing But Words" reveals this album's erraticism at its best.

The album mixes live instrumentals, experimental electronic textures and stammering drumbeats to create a distinctly slow-paced jazz feel, like sitting on a porch in the Deep South on a hot Sunday afternoon. Taylor's intention is for us to experience what making music sounds like when four people get together and jam.

Taylor's own lyrics describe this album perfectly, when he croons "sometimes I think it's beautiful/sometimes I think it absurd."

3.5/5

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Experience Sydney Like a Local

Like any city, Sydney is best enjoyed with a little local knowledge. Beyond the harbour and Bondi Beach, this city has a lot to impress visitors.

- Head to the fringe suburbs of Darlinghurst and Surry Hills to sample a range of trendy restaurants and bars, which are always buzzing. It is joked that Surry Hills has a hip new restaurant opening every week, and this observation is not far off. Both of these urban nooks offer a slew of great drinking spots down little laneways and side streets where you'll discover that you don't need to head to Kings Cross for a big night out.
- Further east in Paddington, you will find charming nineteenth century terrace houses scattered among fashion boutiques and fine pubs. Strolling through this suburb makes a relaxing day out, especially on a Saturday when the Paddington Markets are on and you can check out a selection of arts, crafts, second hand wares and clothing.
- Grab a bite at the Sydney Fish Markets in Pyrmont, near Darling Harbour. This seafood mecca has everything from the freshest sashimi to delicious fish and chips, with an outdoor area to enjoy the beautiful weather. Foodies can also try their hand at the famous Sydney Seafood School while they're there.
- Bondi is Sydney's most famous beach and the crowds that flock there on a sunny day are a testament to this. But well-known doesn't necessarily mean the best. Sydney's beaches shine all the way from Palm Beach on the northern peninsula down to Whale Beach, Avalon, Bilgola, Newport, Narrabeen, Dee Why, Curl Curl and Manly. If you're not heading north, Camp Cove just past Watson's Bay in Sydney's east is a great little spot with access to Sydney Harbour National Park. Coogee is also another quintessential Aussie beach nearby.
- While Darlinghurst and Surry Hills are often touted as 'bohemian' areas, things have changed in recent times as these spots become increasingly gentrified and 'hip'. A trip to King Street in Newtown offers well-priced cafes and restaurants as well as an abundant source of second-hand and vintage stores, all with an edgy, alternative vibe.
- Travellers love to sample local markets, and Sydney has no shortage of them. Every weekend there are plenty of notable markets near the city including Glebe, Balmain, Paddington, Rozelle, Bondi, The Rocks and every month in Kirribilli and Surry Hills.
- The Sydney Night Noodle Markets in Hyde Park are a fun way to spend a balmy evening in the last few weeks of October each year, with authentic Asian hawker markets creating a great atmosphere beneath glittering fairy lights.
- Open air cinemas are a popular way to enjoy summer nights, with Bondi and Mrs Macquarie's Point providing stunning backdrops for a quick flick. You can also try Centennial Park's open air cinema, which is less crowded and often easier to get tickets to.
- In January each year, the city comes alive with 'a bold cultural celebration based on the highest quality art and big ideas' through Sydney Festival. This involves music, dance and visual spectacles in the streets and parks of central Sydney and is a great time to experience Sydney when the temperature is warm and the city is transformed.

Of course this doesn't even come close to being a definitive list of must-dos in the harbour city, but we think part of the fun is discovering your own to make for a truly unique Sydney experience!

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Sonia Taylor

Deal Expert, Sydney

Thursday, April 21, 2011

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