

Santa Fe Spice

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Santa Fe style gurus gave us their fashion tips for the new season, and the jury is definitely in. We've thrown away the concept of throwaway fashion in favor of a few wise buys that bring a new zing to the wardrobe. Mix it up and add spice to the on-trend pieces with your own personal style. As Jill Heppenheimer of Santa Fe Weaving Gallery says, "Women in Santa Fe are very confident. They didn't get here by accident. Choosing to live in such an iconoclastic place, they also choose a look that's emblematic of their confidence." The big picture trend is for form-fitting silhouettes balanced with slouchy comfort, and it's not just tongue in chic to say that booties are kicking the catwalk...literally and figuratively.

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| Talulah



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Santa Fe Spice



Talulah

Talulah's retro-style dresses are designed for curvy women. "And if you don't have curves, they accentuate and give you curves," says owner Angela Romero, observing that women with curves are sometimes afraid to show them off. "Once they see what a nicely fitting tailored dress looks like on, they totally have a change of heart." Her best-selling dress is the Million Dollar Baby, a sexy little vintage-inspired

number that would have looked perfectly at home on Marilyn Monroe. The below-the-knee strappy dress comes in red, black, or blue with white polka dots, with ruching around the waist and bust. It's a dress to impress that suits every size from 0 to 14, and Romero suggests teaming it with platform high heels with peep toes. "It's really easy to move in, comfortable, and we have a variety of little shrugs that can go over it too, if a woman doesn't want bare arms." A convertible dress by Elan International also flatters all figures. "You can wear it about ten different ways," says Romero. "The top can be made into a halter, a strapless, a kimono sleeve ... and the price is right at about \$89." It adapts from day to evening, and is a no-brainer for travel. To make an entrance at holiday parties, Romero tips dresses in emerald green and purples. "Don't be afraid to try some color. Jewel tones usually look good on every complexion." For the morning after the party, chill out in black jeggings (jean leggings) from designer Affliction. "They're cute, they fit great, they look great."

129 West Water Street, Santa Fe. 505.983.6573.

Get It Together

Boutique buyer Madeline Barbieri nominates a cape from Oblique as a way to give a fresh buzz to your wardrobe. The boiled wool and alpaca one-armed cape falls to just below the waist, in shades of oatmeal and gray. "I've never seen anything like it. It's cozy, comfortable, warm ... it's fun!" A Nina Jacob boiled wool coat fastened with a large safety pin is comfy but with a classy and clean look. While Barbieri's customers are not buying one-season wonders, they don't mind splurging on items with a long closet life—and ones that they won't see everyone else wearing. A cognac colored fitted velvet maxi dress by Elven Velvet fits that description for parties. When topped with a long black shrug it serves as an updated and feminine version of formal tails. Says Barbieri, "It's a showstopper." Tunics are still strong worn with leggings and they suit a curvier figure or someone more petite. Barbieri's color pick? "Olive, olive and more olive! We're very big into greens and the golds," she says, pointing out an iridescent olive velvet shirt with a ruffle down the front. "It has a glistening texture and it's scrumptious. It's in

garnet too." Barbieri sees designers starting to show bell bottoms and flares for next spring, and lace will also return in blouses with a little camisole. The spotlight for spring is on mesh, in tanks worn over or under another top. "Mesh is going to be big. It's a good investment for now to carry through spring."

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Santa Fe Weaving Gallery

One statement item immediately updates a wardrobe, and that's what Jill Heppenheimer aims to provide as co-owner of the artisanal clothing gallery: "That big hit—a handbag, vest or jacket that says, 'Here's who I am.'" Top picks include colorful textured jackets and vests from Florida designer Diane Prekup, and Neo Di Roma neoprene handbags with rubbery spikes that look like sea urchins and come in black, red, grey or aubergine. "They're very playful. We like to mix the familiar with the unexpected." Blouses by Doshi, starting at \$425, use the traditional Japanese *shibori* dye process. "It's an ancient technique in a contemporary look, a distinctive thing that can be very casual or pretty dressy." The bold geometric patterns on Margo Selby's jackets are "very British, more cosmopolitan." The London textile designer diversified into jackets at Santa Fe Weaving Gallery's request. "She's very hip. Her look crosses over from early 30-something to 70-something." Even fans of neutrals like one hit of color in their outfit. "Lime green is still hanging out there!" says Heppenheimer. "It's not as hot as it was for a number of years, but [it's]



becoming a basic in the wardrobe color wheel." Reds, from rust to cherry, also hit the fashion moment, and so do pinks, which these days are less pastel and more hot pink. Fitted pants have stolen the runway from big floppy pants. "Women want to look like women," says Heppenheimer. "They're not wearing sweat suits. They're wanting to look feminine and liking the suggestion of a waist again." How do women achieve a shapely silhouette if it's not their natural build? "They want shaping, either in pin tucks or a princess line, to give definition if not a tight fit."

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Ooh La La!

Mercedee Shelton tends toward well-made designer pieces for her consignment store, which opened in March. "Not so much trendy as timeless," says Shelton, singling out Givenchy, YSL, Gucci, Dolce & Gabbana, Armani and MaxMara as examples. For this season, she advises against big and boxy silhouettes. "Go for things that are very tailored, fitting close to the body. The only thing that is oversized is the slouchy look." Slip a slouchy sweater over a pair of riding pants or skinny cords. "The knit long-sleeve mini dress is going to be big. Layer it with tights underneath, a motorcycle jacket or bomber, and booties or knee-high boots ... great!" We're in the right place for the new Southwest trend: Think Navajo-inspired print coats, and fringe leather purses. Another great trend for the season are tassels on accessories and loafers. "They're bringing sexiness to the loafer by stacking it with a four inch heel," says Shelton. A timeless bag is the best investment. "You don't want a lot of stuff going on. I tend not to take things that are blingy, loaded up with florets or studs like this—it's in and out so fast." Got some mad money? Indulge in a little black dress, a cashmere coat or Shelton's staple, the black blazer. "There are some amazing tailored cuts right now by Theory, Tahari and Doce & Gabbana—and Armani always does a great black blazer." Armani jackets at Ooh La La! start around \$100. Color-wise, reds are hot, and emerald green is Shelton's favorite. "It's really big for fall and winter, plus camel and oranges. But go for what makes you feel good. Don't worry about 'the' color right now. Color is therapy, go for what makes you feel good, I know what colors pick me up. And, of course, who doesn't feel great wearing cashmere?"

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