

New Year's Resolutions for the Fashion Savvy

Some thoughts on fabulous outerwear

This blog is dedicated to the half of the United States that is still knee deep in snow...I feel kind of bad sitting here in Los Angeles in sunny weather, but I've done my time in the cold. I grew up in Colorado and spent many a winter in New York City. What did I learn? Snow sucks and I like wearing short sleeves in January. The only thing I really miss about bone-chilling cold is wearing a fabulous coat. So I'll channel my days as a frigid-weather fashionista and give you my two cents. We may not be able to change Mother Nature, but when she turns down the thermostat, a girl can easily turn up the heat in a fabulous new coat...or three.

Tailored Tweed Coat

First, every girl with an eye for style and a hand on *Vogue* knows tweed is the new black this season. Thus, a tailored tweed coat is a no-brainer. It's a super-versatile piece. Because of its texture, tweed can easily be dressed up with a fab cocktail dress or down with jeans and leather boots. The most important element to remember with this outerwear essential is to make sure it is fitted in the waist or else you will look like you dig through garbage cans, not the racks at your fave boutique.

Trench Coat

To give your tweed a rest, alternate it with one of my favorites for the season: a trench coat. A la Mad Men or Dita Von Teese, trench coats are classics that can hold up to rain sleet or snow. The tailored lines and little details of a trench coat make it a perfect, neutral background for bright and pretty accessories. I like to wear my khaki Burberry one with a rose felt hat and scarf and my navy Tatyana trench with aqua accessories.

Cape

The last of the outerwear must-haves this season is a cape. Not a coat and not a scarf, the cape is the piece that you will find whimsical, but at the same time surprisingly practical. Wrap up in a cape for a walk through the Parsons or NYU campus or for an evening out and you'll get a ton of compliments...they are still rare enough on the fashion scene that people will take notice. To find a good cape, look for one constructed of fabric instead of yarn. Top Shop has some cute ones. Corduroy, velveteen or wool lined with satin is ideal. Wear with a cocktail dress and martini for instant glam.

Accessorize

To turn up the heat on your bundled-up-chic look, accessories are a must for coats and jackets. No self-respecting style maven can go without a matching scarf and hat set. Taking over where the tired Pashmina left off, a scarf set consists of a hat, a scarf and usually gloves. Angora or any fuzzy concoction will do. As long as all pieces are the same color, the set will make your cold weather ensemble smart and put together. The best colors for the season are pastels that hint at Spring, or deep vibrant shades like jade and wine that add an air of sultriness.