

LOS ANGELES

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TOP DESIGNERS,
SWANK PARTIES
& ENDLESS STYLE

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EXCLUSIVE

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Complete Coverage

For your viewing pleasure: spring fashions from fresh faces and celebrated creators. BY SAM SABOURA

HERVÉ LÉGER

Couturier, Hervé L. Leroux

Hervé L. Leroux is the newest incarnation of Hervé Léger, the boundary-pushing Parisian behind the seductive bandage dresses in the eighties and nineties. Following the tremendous success of the House of Hervé Léger, the designer sold his company in 1998 to BCBG/MaxAzria Group, exiting soon afterward in a very public split. In 1999, Léger launched Hervé L. Leroux—*le roux* meaning “the red,” presumably in reference to his red hair. And while the name has changed, the game remains the same. The Hervé L. Leroux collection is small but packs a punch, with draped and gathered gowns replacing form-fitting frocks. The look is sexy and glamorous with a polished edge. The master is back on the fashion radar, and we’re waiting with bated breath to see what he’ll do next.

WHO WEARS IT?

My clients are chic, elegant, and have their own sense of style. They’re trendsetters, not followers. I enjoy the fact that my clothing attracts women ranging from 16 to 70. I want my dresses to be exceptional in a discreet way. I’ve had the honor of working with actresses, singers, and socialites, like Jemima Khan, Viscountess Linley, Janet Jackson, Kylie Minogue, Céline Dion, and Arielle Dombasle.

DEFINE THE SEASON

My spring 2008 collection is inspired by the Japanese Zen garden and is entirely shaped in a graphic manner, like the lines of sand in Kyoto’s garden. My ready-to-wear collection is sculpted on the hourglass form that I’ve always loved. I also have a lot of black and white inspired by Claudine Auger, the sixties Bond girl who wore the famous swimsuit in *Thunderball*, and for softness there’s a touch of pale pink, aqua blue, and jade green.

A WOMAN MUST HAVE...

★ The new Hermès Lindy bag, named for Charles Lindbergh.

★ A pair of Chanel jeans from Karl Lagerfeld’s last collection—they have a new proportion.

★ A printed flower dress, but be careful because it’s a risky trend. The most beautiful ones are from Stella McCartney.

★ Of course, a black dress from my collection. Something with a twist—a crisscross, a little unexpected.

PERSONAL STYLE

It’s very classic, only black and only Yohji Yamamoto.

CLOSET SWAP

I want Karl Lagerfeld’s closet, although I know I won’t fit in his clothing because he’s so slim now! I’d like to see and feel what he does when he enters a room. My second pick would be George Clooney’s closet. He’s the epitome of Hollywood chic.

BEST AND WORST

The best: the oldest pieces. The worst: the ones I just bought. I hate new clothes because I have to make them look worn, and that takes a while. I wish I had a butler like the English gentlemen to wear them first.

WHAT’S NEXT?

I have so many projects I’m working on. The most important one is to develop my company on a bigger scale. Many of my clients have asked me to dress them for daytime, so I’m working on that collection now.

view of the latest Perry Ellis collection and got some serious dish on spring style.

WHO WEARS IT?

In a sense, the Perry customer is everyone. He’s not defined by age or demographic, he’s defined by style—embodying an uncluttered, neotraditional aesthetic, sometimes whimsical and a bit irreverent. He’s not into fashion or trends, but is confident in his own personal style. We have celebrity clientele from all walks of life: Jerry O’Connell, Christopher Meloni, Paul Rudd, Kelsey Grammer, Greg Grunberg, and Milo Ventimiglia, among others. But I design clothes for real people who create their own style.



DEFINE THE SEASON

The spring 2008 season is a modern take on a traditional look, with the hint of a nautical reference. The collection is very neutral-based—sand, white, deck, cloud gray—highlighted with a soft yellow and a bright orange, like a sunset hitting the horizon. In fact, the whole collection was inspired by a sunset cruise I took in the Dominican Republic during the holidays last year. It’s a mix of tailored sportswear with some sport-inspired, even technical pieces. I like the juxtaposition of a sport coat thrown over a swimsuit, or a windbreaker worn with sportswear; it’s my version of playing with proportion, which is a very relevant theme in the Perry Ellis heritage. I think sport coats are important this season—they’re so versatile—but they’re a little sexier than in the past, slimmer and a bit shorter.

JOHN CROCCO

Creative director, Perry Ellis



The name Perry Ellis has been synonymous with classic American sportswear since 1980, revolutionizing men’s casual clothing with a timeless aesthetic that seamlessly blends form with function. In 2006, John Crocco was made creative director of Perry Ellis to oversee the design and merchandising of all apparel and accessories. A native of the East Coast and a graduate of NYU (Ellis’s own alma mater), Crocco brings his years of experience in the menswear industry as a buyer, merchandiser, product developer, and design executive to the label. We joined the very busy Crocco at his fabulous dinner party in LA for a pre-