

The Palm Beach Post

SECTION E | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2010 PalmBeachPost.com

INSIDE: CLASSIFIED market

SHOP SMART

HOW TO LOOK GOOD FOR LESS

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FASHION EDITOR STACI STURROCK'S DEAL OF THE WEEK

Total relaxation at half the price

It's Wellness Week at SpaFinder.com, and that means savings on dozens of services at local spas, salons, yoga studios and Pilates centers. Most specials are half-off — such as the \$250 Kerastase treatment at the Ritz-Carlton Palm Beach spa for \$125 — or a flat rate of \$50, like the \$50 facials and massages at Kaffee's Garden Spa in West Palm Beach. See all the offers and book your appointments at SpaFinder.com/DealDays.



Treat yourself!

ACCENT FEATURES INSIDE

HOROSCOPES: 2E
TV, MOVIE LISTINGS: 4E
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Boutique of the Week

Circa Vintage in Tequesta is a marriage of current, designer consignment and vintage. **PAGE 3E**

8

ways to save on your big day ...

THE FRUGALISTA TALKS TO WEDDING PROFESSIONALS ABOUT

How to be a BEAUTIFUL BUDGET BRIDE



THE FRUGALISTA
SHE'S FRUGAL & FASHIONABLE
AIME DUNSTAN

FASHION SALESPERSON **SUSAN PALLADINO** TAKES THE

\$100 challenge

Create an outfit using items from your own closet and new purchases of \$100 or less.

Budget black-tie for less!

Who: Lake Worth resident Susan Palladino, 46, has been working in fashion for more than 20 years. A saleswoman at an Italian luxury fashion boutique on Worth Avenue, she also has her own food blog.

Hitting the town in high style: "I love fashion. I'm obsessed with it. Obsessed with a capital O. It's a lot of fun. Fashion is a fantasy world, and it's nice to be in a fantasy world," she says. "I would wear this gown to a fancy dinner or when hosting a dinner party at home. I'm crazy. I could also wear it with combat boots and funk it up, maybe a cape or something. It's hard to find something this formal for \$100, but my favorite thing to do is get dressed up for a black-tie ball."

Her style: Susan describes her style as "classic with an edge," combining designer items with vintage store finds and ethnic accessories from around the globe.

Diamond in the rough: When combing the racks at her favorite vintage boutiques, such as Glam Vintage in West Palm Beach and C. Madeline's in Miami, Susan says it's important to look for quality items that fit your frame. "You have to figure out what looks best on you. Look at the fabric and inspect the garment, the seams. You can find really nice quality for a great price. A duchess satin gown like this could be \$1,500 at Armani."

Her \$100 look: Vintage black duchess satin gown, \$50, from Glam Vintage; vintage belt, \$10, with two Chanel silk flowers, \$20 each, all from Dina C's Fun & Funky Vintage Boutique in West Palm Beach; her own Manolo Blahniks and black satin clutch from Paris.

RAY GRAHAM Staff Photographer

— Aime Dunstan

Cha-ching! \$28,082 — Cost of average American wedding

— Fairchild Bridal Group, publisher of BRIDE'S, Modern Bride and Elegant Bride

Trimming the budget doesn't have to mean sacrificing style on your wedding day. We asked local experts how to get the most bang for your buck. Who doesn't want more money to spend on the honeymoon?



- 1 SET A BUDGET AND PRIORITIZE:** "Determine your budget and work backward in order of your highest priorities," suggests Joan Bever, director of catering and banquet operations at The Breakers, Palm Beach. "Some couples are more about the food and décor but would be OK using a DJ instead of a band. Or they may be able to shorten their guest list to have it all."
- 2 BE SECONDHAND SAVVY:** The average wedding gown costs \$1,075, according to Brides.com, but today's brides aren't afraid to go vintage. Pick up a pre-owned frock online from websites like woreitonce.com, oncedwed.com, preownedweddingdresses.com, and savethedress.com
- 3 TIMING IS EVERYTHING:** "Schedule your wedding in the off-season, June through September, a time when Florida venues are more willing and able to be more flexible in pricing," says Denise Mariani, director of catering at Café Boulud in the Brazilian Court Hotel, Palm Beach. "Plan an elegant luncheon event rather than a dinner. Pricing is less expensive for daytime than for evening events, and daytime weddings are a great way to stretch the budget."

5 more tips, 3E

SHOP SMART PRODUCT PANEL

What we tested: Christophe Beverly Hills Hair Care Line
Cost: \$2.99-\$9.99
Where: CVS
Product Claims: An assortment of professional hair-care products by Christophe Beverly Hills available exclusively at CVS.



But is it approved?



Liz Balmaseda, 51
Product Tested: Christophe Volumizing Conditioner
This fresh-smelling conditioner smooths right into your hair without leaving a sticky film. But it's not ideal for thickly curled hair (like mine), unless it is applied after a de-tangler. Even so, it does add volume — not something my already-voluminous hair needs. I think this product probably would work quite well on thinning or limp hair.



Katie McBroom, 23
Tried Volumizing Spray Tonic
These are great prices for products of this quality. The Volumizing Spray Tonic was effective. It created volume without leaving a sticky residue throughout my strands. I thought it worked just as well as others I've tried by higher-priced product lines.

SALLY SAYS...



Sally Severeid
From the 'Mo and Sally' morning show on 105.5
Product Tested: Leave in Conditioning Spray
The first time I used the Conditioning Spray, I skipped my conditioner after shampooing because if I overcondition my hair, it looks dirty. Turns out the conditioning spray is not a substitute for conditioner. Second time around, I used it after shampooing and conditioning my hair and had much better results. It gave my hair lots of volume. It's nice to have an inexpensive styling product that does not dry out your hair and is actually good for it. Another plus — it's a cruelty-free product. No animal testing!

EXCLUSIVE COUPONS IT PAYS TO READ SHOP SMART!

Look here every Monday for shoppertunities!

► **CLIP THIS OUT** and take to the retailer below for an **EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT FOR POST READERS ...**

Exclusive offer from The Spa at PGA National

\$99 Neck & Shoulder Massage or Mini Facial and Pedicure along with full use of the Waters of the World facilities.
Regularly \$130.
Offer good until Oct. 31, 2010

PGA NATIONAL RESORT & SPA

www.thespaatpganational.com
400 Avenue of the Champions
Palm Beach Gardens
(866) 975-1911

Retailers interested in offering exclusive Shop Smart coupons may contact The Post at (561) 820-4325.

INSIDE SHOP SMART HOW TO LOOK GOOD FOR LESS

8 ways to save on your big day ...

THE FRUGALISTA TALKS TO WEDDING PROFESSIONALS ABOUT

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► Continued from 1E

4 AVOID STATIONS AND DISPLAYS DURING THE COCKTAIL HOUR.

"If you're serving a three- or four-course menu, there's no need to offer the equivalent of a second meal during the cocktail hour," Mariani adds. "A beautiful selection of passed canapés should be enough to dazzle your guests and take the edge off any appetite before sitting down to dinner. You want the dinner menu to be the star culinary element at your event."



5 GO FOR THE OPEN BAR:

"Most of the time, the pricing is going to be the same whether it's just beer or wine or a full open bar," says Tricia Shaw, catering manager at The Seagate Hotel & Spa in Delray Beach. "Some people get the idea that a full open bar is more expensive, and it's really not. And everybody's got that Uncle Joe who has to have his scotch, and Grandpa has to have his brandy. Why not make everyone happy?"

6 NIX THE DESSERT COURSE:

Nadia Croner, catering service manager at the Ritz-Carlton Palm Beach, suggests offering the wedding cake as a dessert course rather than as a fourth course following dessert.



PHOTO BY LUCIEN CAPEHART
Cascading roses cake by Café Boulud

7 CHOOSE A VENUE THAT DOESN'T NEED DRESSING UP:

City parks can make cheap-and-chic ceremony venues (check with your local parks department for permitting requirements), and the back yard is the new ballroom. "Every inquiry we get is about the simplicity and natural environment that Florida has to offer," says Tito Rodriguez, food and beverage manager of Michelle Bernstein's at The Omphoy Ocean Resort, Palm Beach. "In choosing a location such as ours, couples are saving on décor and splurging on the culinary, beverage and photography budget."

8 FORGET THE FOIE GRAS:

Comfort foods are trendy and affordable. Serve them up family-style to save some dough. "While plated dinners are still the tradition and aren't going anywhere, it has decreased to 50 percent of what our newly engaged couples demand," Rodriguez adds. "A more casual, interactive and energetic reception is definitely on the rise. Family-style dinners have been popular as we are able to offer more our guests more options on the night of their event as opposed to having to RSVP with their dinner choices."

PALM BEACH brides an idea show

ARE YOU PLANNING A WEDDING?

THE POST IS HOSTING A WEDDING IDEA SHOW

SAVE THE DATE!
SEPT. 26

Palm Beach County Convention Center
Noon to 4 p.m./Free Parking

SAY I DO...

to a day of bridal fashions, fun and prizes!

Ladies, please plan to join us for South Florida's premier bridal event. Sample sweets & cakes · Chat with caterers · Preview ceremony & reception sites Save \$2 when you buy your tickets online at PalmBeachPost.com/accent/brides

And ... enter to win a Dream Honeymoon Package!

One lucky couple wins an all-inclusive seven-day/six-night honeymoon to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. (Includes airfare from Miami)

Courtesy of Costamar Travel and Cruises

FOR TICKETS

Go to pbconventioncenter.com and click on "Events Calendar" OR Go to PalmBeachPost.com/accent/brides and click on Tickets.

FASHION CALENDAR



Escada knit tunic (\$1,150) and leather leggings (\$1,695)

DEPARTMENT STORE EVENTS

Saks Fifth Avenue in The Gardens Mall, (561) 694-9009:
Cellcosmet — Facial event, Sept. 23, and pampering event, Sept. 24-25
Estee Lauder — Facial event, Sept. 25

Neiman Marcus in Town Center at Boca Raton, (561) 417-5151:
Escada — Trunk show, Sept. 21-25
Sam Lehr — Trunk show, Sept. 23-25

Saks Fifth Avenue in Town Center at Boca Raton, (561) 620-1231:
Jay Strongwater — Fall preview, 11 a.m. brunch or 3 p.m. tea, Sept. 22
La Mer — Facial event, Sept. 23

BOUTIQUE OF THE WEEK

CIRCA VINTAGE CONSIGNMENT BOUTIQUE

243-B U.S. 1, Tequesta, (561) 741-1616
CircaVintageShoppe.com
Hours: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday



Judith Leiber purse, \$904

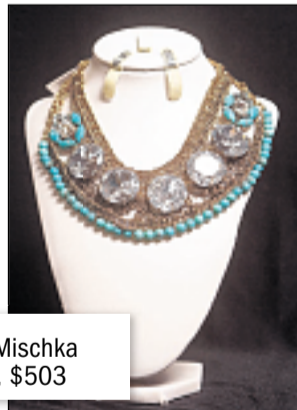


Staff photos by LIBBY VOLGYES

Carol Wright wears a 1950s Emma Domb dress from her private collection at her Tequesta boutique, Circa Vintage.



Christian Louboutin platform peep-toe pumps (never worn!), \$450



Badgley Mischka necklace, \$503



Titanic-style hat made by Carol Wright, \$65



Chiffon dress with beaded cuffs and collar, \$153

the history of vintage clothing and protocol.

And because many of Wright's customers are also consignors, "we are very discreet and offer private appointments, if necessary," she says.

The deal: Alterations by Yen in Jupiter gives Circa Vintage customers 10 percent off alterations.

— Staci Sturrock, Palm Beach Post Fashion Editor

The owner: Carol Medina Wright, a former flight attendant who loves fashion, opened Circa Vintage a little over a year ago.

The store: With chandeliers overhead, leopard carpeting underfoot, and walls painted tangerine and amethyst, Circa Vintage is not your typical consignment store. Instead, it's a marriage of current, designer consignment and vintage.

"Women today want to pay less and yet have high-end designer wardrobes," Wright says. "We offer that luxury."

The merchandise: It's always changing, but on any given day you're likely to find current apparel by Prada, Gucci, Dolce & Gabbana, Hermes, St. John and Versace; handbags by Louis Vuitton and Fendi; shoes by Chanel and Manolo Blahnik.

The vintage offerings include hundreds of pairs of gloves, hats, smoking jackets, ties and dresses.

The extras: Circa Vintage offers table-side modeling for ladies groups and luncheons, as well as private shopping parties. The boutique also supplies period clothing for regional theater productions, and Wright and her sister, Rosa Meddaugh, speak on a variety of subjects related to