



COLOUR TRENDING

FIFTY SHADES OF BEIGE

Diversity in fashion has long been an issue - from the predominantly white industry to the concept of a 'nude' colour. Supposedly a match to the wearer's skin tone, but more often than not presented in a light shade of beige which only represents Caucasian women, the concept of a 'nude' colour is short-sighted and damaging in the face of the actual diversity within the consumer base. Let's not call it 'nude' anymore. Let's call it beige instead.

St John's 2018 Cruise Collection is exactly what we imagine the Duchess of Cambridge would wear on a Sunday afternoon to have a glass of chardonnay at home with the girls. Relaxed and tasteful, the collection has soft pinkish hues and beige similar to Resene Alpaca. A combination of loungewear and resort, with some snappy tweed skirt suits thrown into the mix, St John's collection was the definition of understated luxury. Looking for a modern version of Downton Abbey's signature style? Aren't we all. For Christopher Kane's Cruise 2018, the Scottish designer stuck to his roots and presented a softly feminine amalgamation of kilts, ruffles and lace in hues similar to Resene Anglaise. A stark contrast from his previous collection, which involved embellished Crocs and a post-apocalyptic theme accented with garish florals. While designers like Alessandro at Gucci have made headway in creating collections which build on each other and span multiple seasons, Kane demonstrates that it's okay to throw everything out and start again if a previous collection or aesthetic didn't work. Also, there is hope after Crocs.

The thing with Hermès is that it's always amazing. It's noticeably Hermès but only if you are a fellow Hermès fan. The shapes and designs seem simple, but when you look closely, there is innovation and subtlety, and a classic cut which is made to look fabulous in ten years time. Has an orange suede overall dress ever looked this classy? I think not. Amidst the primary colours was an all-over beige ensemble, close to Resene Bone, made from silk patterned with the iconic Hermès print with a sweater in said print tied aggressively around the model's neck - chic.

Zac Posen's ZAC Zac Posen 2018 Cruise Collection is interesting but confusing (as are all eponymously titled repetitive sister brands). In the current fashion climate of 2000's resurgence, many designers are putting out shapes and ideas which we have seen before, and recently at that. While traditionalists will say it takes twenty years for something to become vintage (cheese, wine, Prada sandals, you get the drift) designs which harken to the mid or late 2000's are confusing to fashion watchers. Is it genius and fresh? Or is it sad and out of date? Posen's collection was safe, made for a sartorially cautious consumer. The most risqué item was an embellished bodycon maxi dress in Resene Blank Canvas, which was reminiscent of something Kim Kardashian would have worn before dating Kanye (which isn't a bad thing). Marchesa does extra on a Cinderella level (although hopefully their workroom is



Marchesa
Resene
Just Right

St John
Resene
Alpaca



Christopher Kane
Resene
Anglaise



Rochas
Resene
Cest La Vie



MSGM
Resene Dust
Storm



ZAC Zac Posen
Resene
Calico

free of rodent helpers). Expect to see these red-carpet friendly dresses on celebrities left, right and centre. Large rosettes, wispy feathers and whimsical embellishment are all par for the course and designed solely to be the centre of attention. Amongst a cluster of jewel tones, beige close to Resene Just Right popped up covered in beaded tassels.

Neon. It's back. If you showed up at New Zealand Fashion Week wearing the same outfit that you wore to that Foam Party we all went to in 2011, then you'd be totally on-trend according to MSGM. Their 2018 Cruise Collection combined zesty, unmissable hues with unexpected prints - tweed, pinstripes, anything goes! But just when you thought the collection was all about clashing prints, they transitioned into punchy block colours like a trench coat in Resene Dust Storm.

Let's start with the embellished 'R' details Rochas threw around their 2018 Cruise Collection; sparkly yet subtle, and fabulous - a great way to tie together a collection. Fixed on the side of cross-strap mules and pinned onto sweaters and bags, the simple idea was a nod to logomania and maximalism, while the remainder of the collection was an exercise in subtlety and restraint. Moving onto the next 'R' - ruffles: just when we thought they were leaving, they've had a resurgence in high fashion. Rochas' ruffles were soft and feminine, and every ruffled piece - including one in Resene Cest La Vie - was somehow akin to what Keira Knightley might wear to play the role of a widowed art teacher in 1940's New York City.

Chanel did silk tweed 100 years ago, and Karl Lagerfeld is still obsessed. Recreating vintage designs which rely on being noticeable as Chanel, Lagerfeld's work raises the question of how closely a designer should align themselves with the original aesthetic of the brand, at the expense of innovation. Chanel's Cruise 2018 show was Grecian, filled with earthy tones similar to Resene Beethoven. The designs oscillated from the iconic silk tweed Chanel suit to a profusion of garments straight from the 1980's and a dress which looked suspiciously like a Megara costume from Disney's Hercules. 



Chanel
Resene
Beethoven

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