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# Color a Mood

# Spring Fashion Has Personality

by kate hamilton

sea of color illustrates the spectrum of this spring season. Inspired by the cool Mediterranean Sea and the breathtaking Greek coast-line, a medley of powdery pastels and vivid brights combines to create a light, relaxed bohemian look for the coming months. Filled with passion, the look "is at once foreign and familiar, casual and luxurious," according to Pantone, Inc's Fashion Color

Report Spring 2005.

Cool sea blues, subtle grays, and fiesta yellows, oranges and greens convey a fun and carefree attitude. Spring 2005 diverges from previous years, when monochromatic, modern influences highlighted black as the fashion foundation. "Colorful clothes make people feel good and forget their worries, if just for the moment," says Cindy Weber-Cleary, *InStyle* fashion director.

"Color for spring '05 is wildly divergent," observes Leatrice Eiseman, executive director, Pantone Color Institute. "The mix is dramatic—like throwing confetti and seeing where it lands. You could make combinations of any of these colors—the rule book has been thrown out the window." With a subtle flirtation, the colors of spring will inspire a creative mix-and-match style for anyone.

Photography: Fred Ramirez, CC&C
Makeup and hair design: Candace Corey, Chicago, IL,
www.candacecorey.com
Models: Amber Bollinger, Heyman Talent, OH,

and Melissa Seitz, All Star Talent, OH

Compiled with information from Pantone, Inc.'s Fashion Color Report Spring 2005 and Schwan-STABILO Cosmetics' Fashion Colours 2005.

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#### Express a style

Inspiration can come from anywhere—especially in the mind of an artist. Fashion designers this season absorbed their environments, mixing a variety of elements into an eclectic palette. From nature to culture, influences include the new bohemian attitude, beaches and a carefree way of life, architecture, the Southwest landscape, portraits and 1940s interior design.

Self-expression, a guiding force within the fashion community, plays a key role this season. "Customers have an overwhelming desire to express personal style, and they have chosen to do it with color," says Robert Burke, senior fashion director, Bergdorf Goodman. With the versatility of spring's new color trends, combining them will be easy, yet bold, and will make powerful statements.

Blue hues that bring to mind the cool Mediterranean Sea, such as delft, blue turquoise and pool blue offset by crisp, clean white, produce a relaxed, coastal look. The earth colors that were dominant in fall 2004 carry over into soft, pale hues, such as slate gray and stone beige, kelp and spruce, burlap and khaki, and cinnamon and dusk brown. Splashes of pastel pinks, lavender and pale lilac, coral and apricot, melon, and watercolor pale mint layered against earth tones or contrasted with primary blacks and whites create soft, yet bold, juxtapositions. Fiesta colors reminiscent of flamenco style and Native American cultures add a dramatic flavor with aurora and aged gold, vibrant green, and dynamic reds, such as flame, spicy orange-red and red clay. See Colors of Spring.



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#### Play dress up

The fun this spring comes from layering a variety of tones—from bold and sensual to pale and provocative. Mosaics of color dominate the runway as designers pair primary hues that have touches of pastels and traditional earth tones with deep sea blues, creating a vibrant mood. "The positive economic climate has made everyone more adventurous in their purchases," says Michael Fink, senior fashion designer, Saks Fifth Avenue. "Women have been responding to uplifting and emotional items, and certainly color becomes a great mood and wardrobe enhancement."

## Flirt with fabric

Hot fashions take a hint from spring's cool Mediterranean tones with light fabrics that blow in the wind. Draping blouses, skirts and dresses in sheers and silks are flirty and flouncy. Spring accessories make a statement with their subtlety and simplicity. Utilize one great item, allowing color to do the rest. Try some of these ideas from Pantone's experts.

- Wear flouncy, lingerie-like, or short and flirty skirts in feminine silks and sheer fabrics.
- Express color with cotton voile tiered tops or a romantic poet's blouse paired with skinny white pants.
- Use scarves and brooches to add vibrance and detail.
- You can't go wrong with a cocktail dress that hits just below the knee in anything from black to light blue or green.
- Find a handbag that fuses 18th-century elegance with modern Caribbean flair.
- Whether long or short, jackets accentuate any outfit. Try a glossy drawstring raincoat, a tulle volume coat or a shrunken suede-trimmed jacket.

Keep spring light and airy with cool pastels, sea blue hues and earth tones, but add a touch of boldness with strong contrasts, such as vibrant reds and purples. Layering colors and fabrics, such as chiffon, silk and satin, enables the wearer to express her personality through fashion. For spring 2005, utilize the versatility of the color palette, and don't be afraid to mix and match to suit your mood.

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# Forecast Ahead

Keep abreast of coming color trends for the rest of the year. As the seasons change from spring to summer and fall to winter, hues will change as well. Learn what has been forecasted for summer and winter 2005.

## Sultry sensuality

Expect hot, vibrant color that is bold and pulsing with vitality, yet softly feminine and exotic. In summer 2005, hues deepen from spring's soft Mediterranean palette with colorful metallics and shiny colors. Summer colors such as milky matte yellow and nude are antiqued spring tones such as aurora and coral reef tones. Soft reds and pinks intensify this season into mahogany, dark violet and fuchsia. Metallics, pearl iridescence and powdery sheers add sparkly glamour to bold, dynamic shades. (See Summer 2005.)

Influenced by bourgeois chic, modernized art deco and tropical disco, summer is vibrant and elegant, mixing feminine style with subtle seduction. The intensity is offset by bleached pastels, elegant synthetics, and silk and satin fabrics. Fashion takes form in summer wool and cashmere, multicolored cotton and flowing, light fabrics.

#### Bohemian emotion

Dense warm and earthy tones balance the influence of summer with electric, colorful shades in winter 2005. Soft autumnal earth tones of reddish-brown, olive green and subdued orange possess a hint of natural enchantment. The boldness of summer hues inspires the appearance of urban street style in slate gray, stoplight red and electric greens. Metallics take a back seat to subtle powdery, pearl and matte shimmer.

A rejuvenated appeal for emotion, individualism and nonconformity, winter colors merge bohemian style, street gang graffiti and honky-tonk entertainment into an eccentric, rich couture. Fashion has strong personality, mixing masculine fabrics of wool and tweed, winter cotton and velvet, and bouclé and crêpe to create a scruffy elegance. Mismatched elements with fancy tailoring and unusual combinations provide intrigue for winter. (See Winter 2005.)

Be daring throughout the year, and play with a variety of looks and colors. Both seasons will be adventurous in color and style, leaving plenty of room for flexibility and personal expression.

Photos provided by Schwan-Stabilo Cosmetics GmbH & Co. KG.

## Summer 2005 –





**Bourgeois** charm unites bleached pastels in apricot, rose

Gatsby



The glamour of '40s Hollywood and modern art deco is exemplified by pearly mahogany, rich dark violet and iridescent crystal rose.

#### Salsa



A tropical disco is sensual and sexy with intense turquoise, metallic tones and rich reds.

## Winter 2005

Oscar



Bohemian decadence—a mix of earthy elegancecombines beige-rose, blue-violet and various shades of brown.



Urban style blends city street and graffiti style with colors such as steel gray, electro-mint and reddish-black.

#### Vaudeville



Theatrical pleasure plays out with rich areens and warm reddish-browns.

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