-LARGEST WEEKLY CIRCULATION IN THE HAMPTONS PLUS SPECIAL MANHATTAN DELIVERY

SPECIAL SECTION:

# RESTAURANT GUIDE

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"JACKSON POLLOCK'S BACK YARD" BY KEN ROBBI

### HEALTH, BEAUTY & FITNESS

## Skin deep with Samantha Altea

#### The Shirt On Your Back

There's nothing like a crisp white shirt. It's the quintessential clean wonderful look for spring and summer. This year, white is THE color du jour, but let's face it, a white shirt has always been a staple of any wardrobe.

There are multiple ways of wearing a white shirt, and it's a look that everyone can pull off. A white shirt can look sexy, sophisticated, smart, casual, shabby, chic, dressy, or simple and classic. Whether young, old, male, or female, if you don't have at least one white shirt in your closet, you simply don't know what you're missing. I'm urging you right now to go out and get one. If nothing else, it's a must-have, fall-back item for when you can't figure out what else to wear. Couple it with a pair of jeans, a flirty skirt, smart pants, even shorts. Hell, you can even throw a white shirt over a bathing suit and look great.

There are no ifs, ands, or buts.....you simply must have a white shirt or three on any trip, or in any closet. But whether you already have several of said item, or are sorely lacking, this week I've pounded the pavements and rummaged through racks on your behalf. I've hunted down this season's crop shirt. And what's more, I'll give you new suggestions on how to wear them and what are the best fabrics to buy.

#### Where:

Banana Republic has several shirts that work well for spring. For women, there's a tailored cotton shirt, as well as a more free-flowing, sheer one that cinches in at the waist. Men can also choose from a crisp cotton tailored shirt, or a wide range of casual linen and cotton. Another retailer that has an incredible range of white shirts is the more tailored Thomas Pink. You can find them online. If you're looking for something more formal in style, try Pinks for both men and women. J Crew has a good casual range of white shirts, though remember to look at the fabric before you buy.

Anne Fontaine is a white shirt specialist. In fact, she's been said to have "revolutionized the white shirt," so checking out her designs is a must. Since the white shirt look is particularly en vogue this season, most stores are showing a terrific range, too. Locally, you can visit Theory in East Hampton. They have two white shirts in particular that are well worth a look.



They're offering a show-stopping bohemian-inspired tunic top called Bianca, with a sweeping sleeve, as well as other simple tunic style tops. Plus there are several lengths of button-downs that are always a nice staple.

#### What:

It's important to choose fabric carefully, especially when worn in warmer weather.

Light Pima cotton is always a nice way to go. So is sheer fabrication such as cotton voile. White with a shot of lurex or metallic going through it can add a dash of fun and elegance. This season, there are many Indian-inspired lightweight cottons with that shot of lurex in them. Silk is another option to consider, as well as linen. But remember when choosing something like linen that it creases easily. The disheveled look can be great — but only when you're intending it. Cotton keeps its shape well, but read the washing instructions carefully — cotton tends to shrink. If in doubt, wash in cold water, or send to the dry cleaners.

#### How and Why:

There are several different styles and innovative ways of wearing a white shirt. Here are just a few tips on what they are and how to wear them.

Remember, it's almost impossible to match whites, and so be careful if you're trying to wear the monotone look — white top and pants for example. Unless you buy them as a set, they probably won't be the same exact shade. However, you can embrace several tones of white and still make an ensemble.

#### Other Ideas:

-A white shirt always shows off a sun tan.

Buy a cheap white shirt and change the buttons – it will look more expensive.

-Ladies can make a formal white shirt casual by buttoning it half way and tying it in the middle.

-Ladies and Gents can give a white dress shirt a little more pizzaz by adding cufflinks. You may even be able to nix the suit jacket with the addition of cuff links. To go casual, roll sleeves back.

Team a basic oversized men's shirt with the more 50s style fuller skirts of this season: The shirt should be a fitted man's tailored collared one. Then button it 3/4 in length and wrap it, criss crossed in the front and around the back. Place and fasten in back in a cummerbund style. "This is a way of giving these 50s inspired pretty looks more attitude," says Pamela Bouchard, a style consultant. Either tie the shirt in back to secure, or tuck it into the other fabric above.

This is the season of the white shirt, from Indian inspired tunics to oversized casual linen at the beach. Embrace the look and put a white shirt on your back.



