



STYLE COUNSEL

**Chantelle
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brings you all the latest fashion news from in and around the county

FIRST off, I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year! There's certainly no better time to start afresh and get your wardrobe and image in shape – and thanks to the absolute bargains available on the high street at the moment, you have the pick of the crop. However, you do need to shop smartly and effectively, so to start off this month, here are my top five tips for successful January sale shopping.

>> This month DON'T MISS... The January sales!

Chantelle's top 5 savvy shopping tips:

Tip 1. Make a shopping list so you don't get sidetracked and prepare in advance by assessing your wardrobe and knowing what gaps there are to fill – no more impulse buys that never get worn!

Tip 2. Always make sure you check each store's return and refund policies – they all vary and sometimes sale item policies are different from normal.

Tip 3. It's best to hit the sales in the morning when your mind is fresh, the rails are neat and tidy, and the shops are less crowded – you don't want to feel like you're rummaging around in a jumble sale and under any more pressure to purchase.

Tip 4. If you're shopping for shoes, it's best to shop later in the day when your feet are a little bit swollen and that way your new shoes won't pinch you as much the next day.

Tip 5. To avoid the queues, don't head to the nearest changing room – go to a quieter one in menswear or lingerie. And, finally, wear an outfit that you can slip in and out of easily!

>> Hidden Gems

Searching out Surrey's best boutiques

WHILE out shopping recently with a client, I discovered Questa, which is located in the heart of Cobham.

It's a boutique that's aimed at the forward-thinking woman keen to explore new trends, but who doesn't want to be a slave to fashion.

Owners Amanda and Jonathan have clearly invested heaps of time searching for the latest spring 'must-haves', sourcing exciting new labels from New York including Grace Sun, Marc Cain and Dallin Chase. Expect vibrant colours and bold prints from these collections.

I also love the idea of their Questa store card, which has been introduced to allow customers the opportunity to purchase beautiful clothes and spread the cost over five months, completely interest free!

● Questa, 49 High Street, Cobham KT113DP. Tel: 01932 866636.

>> TOP TREND for... January

DRAPING is going to be a huge trend over the next season.

During the spring 2009 catwalk shows, models were wrapped, draped and cocooned in everything from liquid satins and gathered chiffons to vibrant silks with the focus mainly on evening wear.

Love them or loathe them, jumpsuits will also be making a retro-tastic comeback over the next season.



This silk jumpsuit from Jasper Conran, £80, combines the two key trends for the new season – draping and jumpsuits

Get in touch...

If you'd like Chantelle to answer your fashion dilemmas, send an e-mail to her at chantelle@topstylista.com or visit our website, www.surreylife.co.uk, to share your own tips for the new season.