



LOS ANGELES

Hollywood is the birthplace of glamour, from the blond bombshells of yesteryear to the glittering stars on today's red carpets. It epitomizes style, elegance, and sophistication, and nowhere is this more apparent than in the city's vintage and resale market.

The city's abundance of celebrities keep the high-end resale stores packed with beautiful garments. Many actresses wear stunning designer gowns to events, are photographed for *People* or *InStyle* magazine, and then immediately turn the dresses into their favorite resale shop. Most resale stores are very discreet about keeping the identity of these celebrities private, but Faye Dunaway, for one, allows her name to be used on the price tags of her cast-off Armani's. Finding a Pamela Dennis or Valentino gown in pristine condition for a mere 10 to 30 percent of its original price is a dream that can come true in Los Angeles.

Celebrities also demand vintage, preferring items that give them an original look that's definitely NOT from the mall. From a perfectly preserved gown worn by a 1940s film star to funky and eclectic items rediscovered in someone's attic, Los Angeles is home to a wide range of excellent vintage stores.

In addition, Los Angeles is the only city in the world (that we know of) that has several stores that sell nothing but wardrobe from the studios, canceled television series, and completed films. These pieces, for the most part, have been worn by an actor in only one or two scenes, perhaps over the course of a few days (weeks at the most), dry cleaned, and then made available for resale.

Other costume designers involved in costuming period films such as *Pearl Harbor* or *Titanic*, shop in vintage stores for the period clothes they need—for both the principal actors and sometimes hundreds of extras. Where else will they find five hundred 1940s men's suits and fedoras? And eventually these things make their way back into the market!

SO JOIN IN THE FUN AND LET'S SHOP ...

VINTAGE

AAARDVARK'S ODD ARK

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7579 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles 90046; (323) 655-6769.
Open Sun–Thurs: noon–8 p.m., Fri/Sat: 11 a.m.–9 p.m.

Owner: Joe Stromei

Return Policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Dressing rooms with outside mirrors

Aardvark's Odd Ark is a struggling actor's or designer's heaven, a very eclectic mix of the best-worst-old-funky-horrible-wonderful clothes and costumes from the 1920s–80s. "We specialize in lower priced clothes," says Stromei, "as the store is very busy and we can't take care of very fine, expensive, fragile pieces." The better, rarer pieces are displayed on the wall, and include rare kimonos, Victorian pieces, and Hawaiian shirts.

With simple, homey décor—to avoid distracting customers from the clothes—this store has it all: casual and semi-casual, semi-formal and formal, clubwear, streetwear for men and women, new and used jeans, cords, camo pants, ties, overalls, jumpsuits, guayaberas, dashikis, petticoats, feather boas, furry coats, velvet jackets, halter tops, party wigs, work clothes, dresses, Hawaiian shirts, tie-dye, lingerie, ties, bow ties, hats, scarves, belts, and cufflinks.

Also at 85 Market St., Venice 90291; (310) 392-2996.
1253 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena 91106; (626) 583-9109.

ALICE AND ANNIE

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11056 Magnolia Blvd., North Hollywood 91601; (818) 761-6085.
Open Tues–Thurs and Sat: noon–6 p.m., Fri: noon–8 p.m.

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Owner: Alice and Annie Ahbur

Return Policy: Exchange only

Try-on Facilities: One dressing room with mirror

Alice and Annie is run by a mother-and-daughter team and is located in North Hollywood within an area called "NoHo." Entering their small store is like walking into a Victorian secret garden complete with trellis, silk flowers, lots of lace, fringed lamps, antique armoires, and stacks of antique hatboxes (some of which are for sale). Annie and her associates obviously care passionately about their clothes, as evidenced by many of the older pieces carefully hung on padded hangers. They have beautiful Victorian blouses, '20s pieces (one spectacular black beaded dress), plus lots of '30s, '40s, and '50s items, mostly for women. Day dresses from this era are in good condition, and the owners stress that they make a point of finding larger sizes for today's "healthier" woman. Other specialties are beautiful lingerie, '20s beaded evening purses, and '50s Lucite bags. The Ahburs love Hedda Hopper hats and Gloria Swanson lingerie. Their favorite periods are the 1920s–40s for glamorous evening wear. It comes as no surprise that both Patricia Arquette and Daryl Hannah have reportedly shopped here.

AMERICAN RAG COMPAGNIE

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150 S. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles 90036; (323) 935-3154.
Open Mon–Sat: 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun: noon–7 p.m.
www.AmRag.com

Owner: Mark and Margot Werts

Return Policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: One dressing room with mirror

American Rag Compagnie carries upscale vintage and is very fashion oriented, with additional boutiques in Japan (thus their "Tokyo" influence) and San Francisco. The Werts personally collect 1940s Salvadore Dali ties. Their favorite fashion decade? "Whatever's in fashion today because vintage is

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NOT dress up, it is an ACTUAL way of dressing.” Their stock, which originated in Europe and the United States, is extensive—currently 25,000 units in stores and one million units in their warehouse.

CITY RAGS

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10967 Weyburn Ave., Los Angeles 90024; (310) 209-0889.
Open Sun–Thurs: 11:30 a.m.–8 p.m., Fri/Sat: 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m.

Owner: Philippe and Denise Badreau

Return Policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: One dressing room with mirrors

City Rags’ husband-and-wife-team, Denise and Philippe, recognized a serious need for a retail facelift in UCLA-adjacent Westwood Village, and City Rags was born. This boutique offers Melrose Avenue-attitude vintage clothes at a fraction of the price. Merchandise from the 1960s–80s includes sportswear, Levi’s bell-bottoms, vintage T-shirts, denim jackets, poly shirts and pants, corduroy pants, and leather jackets. Easy to navigate, this boutique separates vintage jeans by style—bell-bottoms to your left, ’80s straight legs to your right, and ’70s straight legs down the middle. Denise has an eye for faux fur chubbies, T-shirts with funky iron-ons, and shearling-lined jackets, while Philippe locates polyester button-downs with wild and wearable patterns.

Can’t find what you’re looking for? All you need to do is ask—Denise and Philippe will do their best to hunt it down.

DECADES, INC.

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8214 Melrose Ave. (upstairs), Los Angeles 90046; (323) 655-0223.
Open Mon–Sat: 11:30 a.m.–6 p.m. or by appointment.
www.DecadesInc.com

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Owner: Cameron Silver

Return Policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Dressing room the size of most Hong Kong apartments, private with a three-way mirror

Decades, Inc. specializes in 1960s–70s vintage couture that looks modern—a mix of primitive luxury and mid-century design. The store resembles a cross between Warhol’s factory and Kubrick’s *2001* spacecraft. This shop, a gold mine of ’60s and ’70s fashions, is stocked with influential modern designers of yesteryear, including Courrèges, Hermès, Gucci, Gernreich, Rabanne, Koos van den Akker, and Halston. “We have the largest collection of Ossie Clark—who continues to be a very influential designer. We also have the Loris Azzaro archives, which are incredibly sexy and includes jersey dresses and metallic Lurex knits,” says Silver. “The ’60s and ’70s—the birth of modern fashion—continue to be copied by contemporary designers season after season.”

They have the YSL Rive Gauche collection of Madame de Revill (director of Rive Gauche from 1968–95) numbering over 300 pieces. Look for Hermès ’60s and ’70s handbags, jewelry, and ready-to-wear classics as well as a plethora of men’s vintage designer clothing from Cardin, North Beach Leather, and Nudie’s (a famous Western wear store). You’ve seen their clothes on the big screen in *Fight Club*, *Legally Blond*, *The Mexican*, and *Planet of the Apes*.

Decades, Inc. also carries “remodeled” vintage clothing and jewelry. Each piece is one-of-a-kind, ethnic, and ’70s inspired. We are told that Sandra Bullock wore one of the bead and feather lariats to an awards show. Silver’s personal collection includes a Madame Grès sample gown from the ’60s. Celebrities who reportedly shop this boutique include Téa Leoni, Brad Pitt, Kirstie Alley, Cameron Diaz, Courtney Love, Marilyn Manson, David Arquette, Rose McGowan, and Jennifer Tilly.

“The trick is to make vintage an integral part of your style. If you wear vintage for vintage’s sake, people will look at your outfit, not at you.”

—ROBERT TURTURICE, EMMY-WINNER FOR COSTUME DESIGN IN *MOONLIGHTING*

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GOLYESTER

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136 S. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles 90036; (323) 931-1339.
Open Mon–Sat: 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Owner: Ester Ginsberg

Return Policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Private dressing room with mirror

Golyester has been in business for over 20 years. Ginsberg carved her niche in the vintage marketplace with her selection of embroidered shawls, Chinese robes, and unusual, opulent pieces. Her personal treasures include a Chinese shawl embroidered with hundreds of people, animals, and insects; and a Victorian smoking jacket made of cigar labels from her AD RAGS™ collection. Featured in the *Los Angeles Times Sunday Magazine* for their knockout window displays by Linda Davies, Golyester stocks the best vintage clothing and textiles from the 1900s–1960s. Her favorite? Pre ’50s, “when clothing was beautifully sewn and detailed and outrageously over-the-top with humorous designs.”



HIDDEN TREASURES

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154 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Los Angeles 90290; (310) 455-2998.
Open Daily: 10:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m.

Owner: Darrell Hazen

Return Policy: Next day return

Try-on Facilities: Three dressing rooms with mirrors

Hidden Treasures owner Darrell Hazen combs the Midwest for vintage clothing because of the history and stories surrounding each piece. Shoppers will find the dates these treasures were born written right on the price tags. Hazen transports shoppers back to the 1920s (with beaded



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dresses) and the 1930s (with simple floor-length rayon dresses). An 1890s violet velvet opera cape with metallic gold thread and mother of pearl binoculars tops his personal collection.

HUBBA HUBBA!

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3220 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank 91505; (818) 845-0636.
Open Tues–Sat: noon–6 p.m.

Owner: Patricia Taylor

Return Policy: Exchange with receipt

Try-on Facilities: One large room with mirrors

Hubba Hubba! is so jam-packed with 1930s–60s vintage that there’s no room for décor. Taylor stocks at least 100 new pieces in the store every week. “Not only do costume designers frequent my shop year after year when they’re working on period TV, film, and theater projects, but there’s a treasure chest of great stuff for singers, actors, and anyone who doesn’t want to look like everyone else. Vintage is so much more interesting, stylish, and well-made than current fashion,” says Taylor.

Loads of costume jewelry—glitzy rhinestone, glass beads, and sterling pieces—are for sale. Check out their shoe room for shoes, a zillion hats, and purses. Peruse their lovely vintage wedding gowns, prom gowns, vintage rayon robes, dresses, and men’s suits and shirts. Taylor carries it all, but her favorite decade is the ’40s for the “classy, great lines and figure flattering clothes—I like that period on the guys, too!”

Taylor’s stock comes from “pickers” and estate sales around the country. She takes pride in offering such reasonable prices that “high-end dealers can buy here and still double the price.” In the 17 years that this store has been in Burbank, it has helped wardrobe hundreds of films, including *Pearl Harbor*.



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IGUANA VINTAGE
CLOTHING

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14422 Ventura Blvd., Los Angeles 91423; (818) 907-6716.
Open Mon–Thurs: 11 a.m.–7 p.m., Fri/Sat: 11 a.m.–8 p.m.,
Sun: 11 a.m.–6 p.m.
www.IguanaClothing.com

Owner: Sheila Cohn

Return Policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Six changing rooms on first floor, two on mezzanine;
full-length mirrors located outside dressing rooms and
throughout the store

Iguana Vintage Clothing looks like a clean, well-organized Western store and offers vintage clothing from the 1920s–80s, including leather jackets, '60s miniskirts, zoot suits, top hats, poodle skirts, bell-bottoms, wedding gowns, platform shoes, flapper dresses, cowboy and biker boots, saddle shoes, bowling shirts, '40s and '50s dress suits, cashmere sweaters, trench coats, leather vests, and Hawaiian and paisley shirts. Whew! And accessories!

Cohn's favorite era is the '40s. "The clothes were fun yet very stylish, the material very comfortable—especially anything in gabardine," says Cohn. She loves men in fedora hats, suspenders, and two-tone shoes, and for the ladies, free flowing dresses with or without pleats. Her personal collection boasts first edition 501 Levi's in perfect condition and color.

"Buy one really good suit, one really good coat, and add trendy accessories. Accessories change with the season, but a classic look stays and stays."

—GIOVANNA OTTOBRE-MELTON, COSTUME DESIGNER FOR *PROVIDENCE*

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IT'S A WRAP!
PRODUCTION WARDROBE SALES

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3315 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank 91505; (818) 567-7366.
Open Mon–Fri: 11 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat/Sun: 11 a.m.–6 p.m.
www.ItsAWrapHollywood.com

Owner: Tiara Nappi and Jan Dion

Return Policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Nine dressing rooms

It's A Wrap! Production Wardrobe Sales looks like a combination of a movie set and museum and specializes in wardrobe from the sets of film and TV. Jan Dion, self-proclaimed founder of the concept of selling production wardrobe, came up with the idea over 17 years ago during a directors strike. Dion was asked to auction off props and equipment from *Raise the Titanic*, *The Muppet Movie*, and *Hard Country* to raise money. Entire wardrobe trailers were sold for pennies on the dollar, but the auction inspired her. So Dion opened a small store in Studio City to sell items from the movies to the public.

Dion ran her shop, Retake Room, for ten years before she and her daughter, Tiara Nappi, opened It's a Wrap!, named for the phrase that signifies the end of a film shoot. Today they have a 7,000-square-foot showroom with 3,000 square feet of storage.

The front showroom holds contemporary wardrobe for men and women, while the back showroom offers contemporary, vintage, and costume clothing. The stock varies depending on the featured movie or television show. Each item is tagged according to the movie, TV show, commercial, or runway on which it appeared. Some of the clothing has never been worn, the rest is dry cleaned.

Occasionally the wardrobe has been "teched" or "distressed" for a particular scene. "Teching" means dyeing a white garment a light tan or gray to reduce glare on camera; "distressing" means anything from making a garment look old and worn to creating knife tears, bullet holes, or fake blood splatters. These items are more likely to end up on the wall for display only.

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In their showroom, prices are reduced directly on the store tag every three weeks. Current offerings include: a *Charmed* floral silk blouse worn by a cast member; an *Autumn in New York* cream satin gown worn by Winona Ryder; and a *Xena: Warrior Princess* costume worn by Lucy Lawless. Resale pieces include Donna Karan, Dolce & Gabbana, Lanvin, Prada, Gucci, Escada, BCBG, and Betsy Johnson. The most interesting pieces collected by Nappi are from Winona Ryder's wardrobe for *Autumn in New York*.

JET RAG



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825 N. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles 90038; (323) 939-0528.
Open Mon–Sat: 11:30 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun: 11 a.m.–7:30 p.m.

Owner: Jimba Kobayashi

Return Policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Five dressing rooms

Jet Rag, one of the best sources for well-priced vintage clothing, is a post-apocalyptic store housed in an imposing rust colored building on trendy La Brea Avenue. Judging by the pierced salespeople and blasting music, young shoppers are their targeted customer. They offer a remarkably large and diversified collection of pants, tops, sweaters, leather and suede jackets, sleepwear, and gowns. The store is well-organized and easy to find, with most items in good condition, and all at very accessible prices.

Jet Rag offers an equal amount of men's and women's clothing, with most items from the '50s and forward. On Sundays, this store offers grab bag pieces for \$1 each, but a good eye is a must to find something worthwhile, and a quick draw to grab it first.

Koboyasha has always been interested in vintage clothes; his store is your typical case of a hobby turning into a business. "Since new clothing floods the market with virtually the same thing everywhere you go," he tells us, "vintage clothing is a refreshing alternative because every single piece is

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different." As a collector, Koboyasha's personal favorite is split between a shirt by Elsa Schiaparelli famed for her surrealist fashions and a beautiful 1936 fur evening coat. His favorite era is the '50s. "It was the last decade in which silk, rayon, and wool were used very well. It also represents good times in America, from simple to wild and fun."

MEOW



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2210 E. Fourth St., Long Beach 90814; (562) 438-8990.
Open Tues–Sat: noon–6 p.m., Sun/Mon: noon–5 p.m.

Owner: Kathleen Schaaf

Return Policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Pink fridge doors that open to three mint and turquoise dressing rooms

Meow is an 1,800-square-foot oasis filled with mint-condition vintage, old neon signs, vintage advertisements, and an array of period mannequins. The store specializes in never worn originals from 1940s–70s, including apparel, accessories, sweaters, sweaters, and more sweaters. Cashmere sweaters from the '50s and '60s, cardigans, angora, mohair—200–300 sweaters are stocked, each lovingly hand-laundered before being put on display.

Count on Schaaf to have a terrific selection of handmade, never worn original sweaters that make up about 40 percent of their stock. "It's amazing that in 2002 I can still go out and find merchandise that has never been used from the 1940s–70s. It's like a treasure hunt. I never know what I'll find," says Schaaf. Her personal collection includes display and advertising related clothes, workwear, and denim sneakers from the '30s and '40s. Workwear and playclothes from the '40s are her favorite, though she loves '70s and '80s punk rock and new wave T-shirts—we found a never worn Led Zeppelin T-shirt from the '70s ready for the taking.

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Meow has supplied wardrobe for more films and TV shows than can be counted on both hands, including *Pleasantville*; *Austin Powers I and II*; *Detroit Rock City*; *Mulholland Falls*; *A Walk in the Clouds*; *Girl, Interrupted*; *Charlie's Angels*; *Liberty Heights*; *Remember the Titans*; *Thirteen Days*; *The Legend of Bagger Vance*; *The Drew Carey Show*; and *A League of Their Own*.

MOMO

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308 N. Stanley Ave., Los Angeles 90036; (323) 964-5240.
Open Mon/Tues and Thurs–Sat: noon–8 p.m., Sun: noon–6 p.m.

Owner: Rie Fujii

Return Policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Dressing room with mirror

Momo is Shabon's (see p. xxx) "sister store" and specializes in '60s and '70s clothing and accessories, all of which are never worn or are in excellent condition. This store offers T-shirts, bell-bottoms, dresses, skirts, leather jackets, shoes, hats, and purses. Japanese in flavor, you will find, according to Fujii, "Astro Boy products, cool watches from Japan, and T-shirts with silk-screened work by Amore, a Tokyo-based artist whose imagery and humor are responsible for Momo's look."

Owner Fujii's personal collection includes H. Barc dead stock—shirts and pants that had been sitting in a warehouse for 30 years. Current offerings include: low-waisted bell-bottoms; airline bags by World Airways, Pan Am, United Airlines, and Sunair; as well as concert T-shirts and jerseys from bands such as Iron Maiden, Yes, Bon Jovi, the Who, Rolling Stones, Triumph, and Jefferson Starship.

TARA REID was spotted at the 2002 Race to Erase MS in Los Angeles in a crocheted vintage granny gown.

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OZZIE DOTS

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4637 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles 90027; (323) 663-2867.
Open Mon–Sat: 11 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun: noon–5 p.m.
www.OzzieDots.com

Owner: Daniel Hazen

Return Policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Four dressing rooms with three full-length mirrors

Ozzie Dots, decorated in festive and funky Polynesian, specializes in '40s and '50s glamour and glitz. "We specialize in vintage clothing and costumes, and we cater to the movie industry. Celebrities shop us. We are considered the one-stop shop in Los Angeles where treasures are to be found," says Hazen. Although primarily a vintage clothing boutique, Hazen does offer designer resale, including Dior, Ralph Lauren, Lilli Ann, Hermès, and Vera Wang. His favorite era is the '40s, "because of all the great prints, wonderful rayons, and beautiful designs."

A recent visit turned up a cream tuxedo jacket made for Lou Rawls, a fancy Western shirt by Turk, a Tuxedo shirt made for Dean Martin, and two dresses worn by Tatum O'Neal in *Paper Moon*. Wardrobe from Ozzie Dots appeared in *Annie Hall*, *Great Balls of Fire!*, and *Pleasantville*.

THE PAPER BAG PRINCESS

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8700 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 90069; (310) 358-1985.
Open Mon–Sat: noon–7 p.m., Sun: noon–5 p.m.
www.ThePaperBagPrincess.com

Owner: Elizabeth M. Mason

Return Policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Dressing rooms with mirrors

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The Paper Bag Princess first opened in 1995 in less than 300 square feet. Today there are three separate boutiques in over 3,000 square feet of space. The front store is women’s vintage, contemporary garments, and accessories, while directly behind is the men’s department. Specializing in sleek ’60s and ’70s styles, this store offers the “largest collection in the world of vintage Emilio Pucci clothing and vintage designs by Chanel, Hermès, Gucci, Cardin, Dior, Gernreich, Balenciaga, Yves Saint Laurent, and many others,” says Mason.

In its September 1999 issue, *Los Angeles Magazine* lauded the exceptional quality of vintage clothing at the Paper Bag Princess. Many of Mason’s vintage items have come from the closets of celebrities, giving the items a pedigree one may not find elsewhere. Courtney Love, Elizabeth Shue, Tori Spelling and Nicole Kidman are some of the stars that have been known to peruse the racks here, along with designers (Mason won’t reveal who) who scour the store for inspiration.

Splendid finds might include: a YSL red shearling and black suede purse and muff; a black velvet wide-brim bolero hat with multi-colored dangling hearts; a black long-sleeved “furry” knit minidress; Chanel Number 5 rhinestone drop earrings; or black Alaïa knit capris.

PARIS 1900

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2703 Main St., Santa Monica 90405; (310) 396-0405.
Open Mon–Sat by appointment or by chance.

Owner: Susan Lieberman

Return Policy: Exchange only

Try-on Facilities: One dressing room with mirror

The **Paris 1900** adventure begins at the front door with an Art Nouveau façade that was entirely handcrafted in 1981 by Parke Meek and Roger Johnson (inspired by an 1895 Paul Hankar Brussels façade). This store

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specializes in authentic fashion and bridal attire dating from 1900–1930, a period known for exquisite handwork. Newly designed garments using antique laces and textiles are also for sale. Each garment in this store is carefully selected based on quality and condition, restored, hand laundered, air dried, and pressed.

The Edwardian period and the ’20s are Lieberman’s favorites because of the wonderfully feminine detailing. Lieberman collects hand-embroidered pieces by Boué Soeurs and garments from the estate of May Rindge, founder of Malibu Pottery (1920s) and matriarch of family land holdings from Malibu to the Ventura county line. “Glorious clothes,” says Lieberman.

Lieberman keeps erratic hours of business because “maintaining our stock of special and unique items requires that we have flexible hours. We must travel far and wide to find them. When we are between appointments, please look for our sign, ‘Open, please knock,’ on the door. Browsers are welcome, but we ask that bridal customers schedule an appointment,” says Lieberman.

Garments from this shop were seen in *Legends of the Fall*, *Titanic*, *The Legend of Bagger Vance*, *A Little Princess*, and *The Patriot*.

PLAYCLOTHES

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11422 Moorpark St., Los Angeles 91602; (818) 755-9559.
Open Mon–Sat: 11 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun: noon–5 p.m.

Owner: Wanda Solieau

Returns Policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Dressing rooms with mirrors

Playclothes (one of Eden’s favorite vintage stores) is a large airy space, full of color and sunlight and stocked with vintage clothing and accessories, including shoes, hats, and jewelry. This store is a terrific resource for middle priced vintage. Items are always in perfect condition and are organized into

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decades with color-coded tags. What's more, the sales staff (including Soileau) is knowledgeable about different eras and their styles. Eden's favorite find here was a pale green bias cut '30s evening gown and matching cape that she used on an actress portraying the Duchess of Windsor.

Owner Wanda Soileau counts Kim Bassinger, Molly Ringwald, Mark Harmon, Leah Thompson, and Bob Dylan as some of her celebrity clients. Soileau's customers span all types and ages, but she reminds us that what is popular often changes. For now, she can't keep enough gowns in stock for all the women going to Hollywood events. Swing clothes from the '40s and early '50s are also hot, along with men's two-tone shoes and '50s wedge sandals.

You've seen their Western shirts in *Runaway Bride*, their womenswear in *Blast From the Past*, and '40s clothes in Woody Allen's *Company Man*. Costume designers from television's *The Drew Carey Show* and *Dharma & Greg* frequently shop here.

Soileau started collecting in Ohio in 1984 while still a professional dancer. Finding that vintage was not selling well in the Midwest at that time, she and her future husband moved to Los Angeles to start wholesaling their collection. Initially she sold at the Pasadena Rose Bowl swap meet and then out of their home. In 1995 Soileau opened a store in Studio City, and later moved to their current location in Toluca Lake.

Soileau and her musician husband travel extensively collecting vintage. Soileau can date almost any piece by design, color, hem length, fabric, and trim; she sometimes learns the exact history of the garment from the seller. Useful for both Hollywood costume designers and regular clients, Soileau will make shirts, pants, and jackets to order using vintage fabrics and patterns. This especially comes in handy for large or unusual sizes or for films where multiples are needed for the star and stunt double.

DIANE KEATON

wore a black vintage suit found in an LA vintage shop to the 1995 Oscars.

SIDE TRIP: SAN DIEGO

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Anatomic Rag: 979 Garnet Ave., San Diego 92109; (858) 274-3597.

Boomerang's: 1435 University Ave., San Diego 92103; (619) 294-9669.

Buff: 1061 Garnet Ave., San Diego 92103; (858) 581-2833.

Buffalo Exchange: 3862 Fifth Ave., San Diego 92103; (619) 298-4411; or 1007 Garnet Ave., San Diego 92109; (858) 273-6227.

Flashbacks Recycled Fashions: 3847 Fifth Ave., San Diego 92103; (619) 291-4200.

Indigo Way: 437 Market St., San Diego 92101; (619) 338-0173.

Johnson House: 2706 Calhoun St., San Diego 92110; (619) 291-5170.

Life's Little Pleasures: 4219 Park Blvd., San Diego 92103; (619) 296-6222.

Memories Boutique: 1916 Cable St., San Diego 92107; (619) 224-8828.

Old Custom Inc. Denim Outlet: 8268 Miramar Rd., San Diego 92126; (858) 566-0212.

Rags The Fashion Exchange: 3940 Fourth Ave., San Diego 92103; (619) 229-1350.

Retro: 4879 Newport Ave., San Diego 92107; (619) 222-0220.

Shake Rag-Gaslamp: 432 F St., San Diego 92101; (619) 237-4955.

Tata Lane: 525 Evans Pl., San Diego 92103; (619) 688-9778.

Wear It Again Sam: 3823 Fifth Ave., San Diego 92103; (619) 299-0185.

What Ever: 6495 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego 92115; (619) 582-2006.

DESIGNER RESALE

Cream of the Crop: 4683 Cass St., San Diego 92109; (858) 272-6601.

Crème de la Crème Resale Boutique: 10330 Friars Rd., San Diego 92120; (619) 282-5778.

Dress To Impress: 4242 Camino Del Rio North #9, San Diego 92108; (619) 528-9797.

Gentlemen's Resale Clothiers: 4695 Date Ave., La Mesa 91941; (619) 466-4560.

Great Curves: 2810 Lytton St., San Diego 92110; (619) 224-9174.

My Magnin: 10615 Tierrasanta Blvd. #A, San Diego 92124; (858) 268-2298.

Retro: 4879 Newport Ave., San Diego 92103; (619) 222-0220.

POLKA DOTS & MOONBEAMS



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8367 W. Third St., Los Angeles 90048; (323) 651-1746.

Open Mon–Sat: 11 a.m.–6:30 p.m., Sun: noon–5 p.m.

Owner: Wendy Freedman Borsck

Return policy: Next day exchange with receipt

Try-on Facilities: Two dressing rooms with large mirrors and flattering lighting

Polka Dots & Moonbeams offers vintage from the 1940s–70s with some turn-of-the-century pieces. The most interesting piece Borsck has collected is a Pucci jumpsuit. Her favorite period is the '40s because “the fabrics were of really good quality and they fit shapely women.” A haunt of TV costume designers, clothing from this boutique has been seen on *Friends* and *Ally McBeal*.

LOS ANGELES

VINTAGE

REEL CLOTHES



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5525 Cahuenga Blvd., Los Angeles 91601; (818) 508-7762.

Open Mon–Sat: 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun: noon–5 p.m.

www.ReelClothes.com

Owner: Holly Haber, Elaine Vollmer, and Lennard Billin

Return policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Three private dressing rooms with mirrors

Reel Clothes was established in 1981. “You’ve read the book. You’ve seen the movies. Now wear the clothes,” said Vollmer, owner of “the world’s first retail store specializing in the sale of wardrobe from movies and television.” In 1991, Elaine’s daughter Holly Haber was brought on board.

Haber, Vollmer, and Billin (mother, daughter, and husband/son-in-law) offer a piece of “Old Hollywood.” At any given time, Reel Clothes has literally thousands of items for sale since newly consigned items arrive on a daily basis. Everything in their inventory was used in the production of a movie or television series, and everything comes directly from the studios or production companies. Clothing was usually worn or used by an actor or actress for just a few hours while filming a scene or two, is therefore still in perfect condition, and available at a fraction of the retail price. Just a few of the many films and TV shows include *The Cable Guy*, *Air Force One*, *As Good as It Gets*, *What Dreams May Come*, *Men in Black*, *Seven Years in Tibet*, and *Seinfeld*.

Here you might find a garment worn by Lisa Kudrow, Roseanne, Brad Pitt, Heather Locklear, Richard Gere, David Duchovny, Antonio Banderas, John Travolta, or Jennifer Love Hewitt. Apparel runs the gamut from designer fashion to casualwear. Armani, Boss, Varneyu’s, and Lacroix are just some of the designer labels presented.

“Customers are often surprised to find more than one identical wardrobe piece,” says Haber. Using the movie *Wild Things* as an example, she explains the need for multiples of the same outfit. “Shot in 100 degree heat and 80 percent humidity, the actors needed to change clothes during long days

VINTAGE

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of shooting. While a character may have worn the same clothes every day—such as the blue tank top, black jean cutoffs, and sneakers worn virtually throughout the entire film—the actress, Neve Campbell, doesn't. So there were at least four different sets of Neve Campbell's outfit. That way the costumer could give her a clean set each time she reported to the set or if she wanted to change into clean clothes for her own comfort.

“The scene on the boat (at the end of the film) with Kevin Bacon and Matt Dillon required six days to shoot. Kevin Bacon wore at least six different versions of the same shirt with the marlin pattern.”

RE-MIX

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7605 1/2 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles 90036; (323) 936-6210.

Open Mon–Sat: noon–7 p.m., Sun: noon–6 p.m.

www.ReMixVintageShoes.com

Owner: Phil Health

Return Policy: Exchange only

Try-on Facilities: One dressing room

Re-Mix, a gallery-like space with rough walls and folk art furniture by Jon Bok, is the place to find never worn vintage and vintage reproduction shoes. “We love the idea that these shoes have been waiting for decades to reach their intended purpose—to be worn!” says Health. He scours warehouses, old stores, and manufacturers to keep this boutique filled with goodies. The most interesting pair collected in his travels? “A ladies redwing casual shoe from the '30s that looked like something Amelia Earhart would have worn. It is a brown, stacked two-inch pump with a kiltie and buckle straps, never worn, in a very wearable size 8 1/2.” His favorite decades are the 1930s–50s, “because it was a very innovative period when MODERN was NEW; new materials were combined with traditional ones in never before seen styles with great quality and attention to detail.”

LOS ANGELES

VINTAGE

RESURRECTION

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8006 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles 90046; (323) 651-5516.

Open Mon–Sat: 11 a.m.–7 p.m., Sun: noon–5 p.m.

Manager: Tsoler Toumayan

Return Policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Two dressing rooms with mirrors

Resurrection is the West Coast sister to the Resurrection in New York (see p. xxx). This upscale, “simple but wild and rockin’ store” at the toney west end of Melrose Avenue boasts a terrific collection of 1960s–80s leather jackets—from plain to highly decorative, including the “East Meets West” leather line from the '70s. This store also sells designer vintage from the '60s (“because it was such an experimental period”), '70s, and '80s for both men and women and includes Pucci, Gucci, Halston, North Beach, Courrèges, Eastwest Leather, Diane von Furstenberg and Emilio Pucci dresses, and Yves Saint Laurent '70s suits for men. Vintage denim is also plentiful.

Sales people are particularly friendly, but the merchandise is definitely aimed at customers with deep pockets. Specializing in the “avant-garde '60s, rockin’ '70s, and fun '80s with a swipe of chic, this boutique offers the cream of the crop of LA vintage clothing. Clothing for rock ‘n’ rollers, unique party hosts and hostesses, and outerwear for the California breeze,” says Toumayan. He personally collects Vivienne Westwood/Malcom McLaren punk clothing.

See this store's clothing in the film *Charlie's Angels*, a Jennifer Lopez video, and TV's *Ally McBeal*, *That '70s Show*, *Dharma & Greg*, and *Sex and the City*.

“Buying vintage is like being your own designer: You get to create a self-determined identity through clothes.”

—LYNN HIRSCHBERG, “THE NEW OLD THING,” *HARPER'S BAZAAR*, SEPTEMBER 2000

VINTAGE

LOS ANGELES

SHABON

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7617 W. Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles 90036; (323) 692-0061.
Open Mon/Tues and Thurs–Sat: noon–8 p.m., Sun: noon–6 p.m.

Owner: Rie Fujii

Return Policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Dressing room with mirror

Shabon is Momo's (see p. xxx) sister store. Specializing in '80s vintage (20 percent of which is new or remade) they stock Pucci, Gucci, Courrèges, North Beach Leather, and personal collections from independent designers in Japan and Paris. Shabon offers vintage that looks new and new clothes that look vintage. It all depends on what's currently in fashion, as "Shabon is more trendy than most vintage stores," says Fujii. Shabon also produces unique designs for this shop using vintage fabrics. They specialize in smaller sizes, sunglasses from all periods, vintage watches, belts, and hats.

A very stylish woman, Fujii hunts for boutique stock everywhere she travels (namely California, Paris, and Japan) to acquire the most cutting-edge merchandise. Shabon also offers a "wish list" for customers in search of something specific. Displayed in the shop entrance are current Japanese fashion magazines (*Cutie*, *EGG*, *Hawaii Girls*, *Crea*, *Viva*) along with pop and fashion books. "Positive" music is always played and an upbeat, knowledgeable staff available.

Fujii's personal collection includes three velvet Pucci suits (orange and pink, blue and lavender, brown and tan) and a North Beach Leather long jacket with scalloped bottom, so tiny "it fits and looks almost like a dress." Current offerings include: 1960s–80s vintage designer monogram bags from Gucci, LV, Pierre Jardin, Christian Dior, Coach, Bally, Courrèges, and Roberta (two Roberta velvet purses in perfect condition); amazing '70s beat-up tooled leather belts with big brass buckles; '80s thick belts in a variety of colors and buckles; and '60s sunglasses, including a huge brown Pierre Cardin pair and a clear Lucite dead stock pair with flowers made in France.

LOS ANGELES

VINTAGE

SNAP VINTAGE CLOTHING

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3211 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica 90405; (310) 453-4177.
Open Daily: noon–6 p.m.
www.SnapVintage.com

Owner: David Meno

Return Policy: Exchange or store credit within three days

Try-on Facilities: Four dressing rooms with mirrors

Snap Vintage Clothing, located on the Westside of Los Angeles, is an unpretentious, postmodern industrial store, specializing in purses mainly from the '50s forward. What makes this store unique is its large collection of vintage purses eye-catchingly displayed five high on the west wall of the store in every size, shape, color, and style—lots of shiny materials and bright colors from the '50s and '60s. "My 22-year-old daughter suggested we carry handbags," says Meno. "No problems about sizing like with dresses or shoes. Most stores stock a few, but I decided a large selection would be much more enticing and a more exciting presentation. The most interesting are '50s poodle purses, of which we've had a few. Each one was unique in its own way and exciting for me to own, if only for a few days or weeks."

Snap also carries lots of cute rockabilly-type stuff that caters to a younger crowd. Merchandise is well-organized and hung with enough space between each item for easy viewing. Other popular items include '70s gear for customers looking for something to wear to theme parties. Meno's favorite decade is the '50s—a whimsical and daring time of using colors like pink and black together. "The quality of the fabrics was also exceptional. Just as the cars were wild and bold, so were the clothes—great decade for fashion exploration of style, design, and color."

TV's *Felicity*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and *Providence* have shown their wares.

CHLOË SEVIGNY wore a white 1969 (Holly) Harp gown to the 2002 Vanity Fair Oscar party.

VINTAGE

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STAR SHOES: A COCKTAIL LOUNGE AND VINTAGE SHOE SALON



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6364 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles 90028; (323) 462-STAR (7827).
Open Thurs–Sat: 6 p.m.–11 p.m.

Owner: John Nixon and Paul Devitt

Return Policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Not needed, shoes only

Star Shoes is truly a unique store. Where else but in Hollywood can you enjoy an evening of cocktails and the latest music while trying on fabulous vintage shoes? Only at Star Shoes, the brainchild of owner Nixon. His dream was to open a theme bar, and when he became aware of the availability of the Joseph LaRose collection of shoes and handbags from the '40s to the '70s, there was his answer! La Rose was a prominent “cobbler to the stars” in a past Hollywood era whose influence can still be seen in the current designs of Gucci and Jimmy Choo.

Nixon was born and raised in Los Angeles and has always been fascinated by the past, whether architecture, art, cars, or music. But he also likes to look forward, and hopes his club will be a platform to showcase innovative ideas from designers, photographers, and artists of all types. Located in an old building near the famed Hollywood and Vine intersection, shoes are displayed in beautiful glass cases, with the bar and dance floor toward the back. Framed vintage shoe ads decorate the dark paneled walls. Open since September 2001, Star Shoes has succeeded all expectations. However, no fear of running out of vintage shoes; the collection has over 120,000 pairs—plus handbags.

Additional Vintage Stores

Buffalo Exchange: 131 N. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles 90036; (323) 938-8604.

Denim Doctors, Inc.: 8044 W. Third St., Los Angeles 90048; (323) 852-0171.

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Junk for Joy: 3314 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank 91505; (818) 569-4903.

Rebecca’s Dream: 16 S. Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena 91105; (626) 796-1200.

Repeat Performance: 318 N. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles 90036; (323) 938-0609.

Retro Clothing: 6439 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles 90028; (323) 466-8863.

RockaHula: 7560 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles 90046; (323) 653-1951.

Second Debut: 3309 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank 91505; (818) 848-8800.

Yellowstone Clothing, Inc.: 712 N. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles 90038; (323) 931-6616.

DESIGNER RESALE

THE ADDRESS BOUTIQUE



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1116 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica 90401; (310) 394-1406.
Open Mon–Sat: 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun: noon–5 p.m.
www.TheAddressBoutique.com

Owner: Maureen Clavin

Return policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Open dressing room with lots of mirrors

The AdDress Boutique, a modern, skylit store, carries everything from casualwear to glamorous ball gowns with an emphasis on dressy clothes. This store has it all, including Chanel, Valentino, Bob Mackie, Fabrice, Sonia Rykiel, DKNY, St. John, Escada, Balenciaga, Adolfo, Bill Blass, Prada, Missoni, Jil Sander, Versace, Lagerfeld, Richard Tyler, Oscar de la Renta, and Dolce & Gabbana. Handbags and shoes are top of the line, from designers like Manolo Blahnik, Chanel, and Gucci.

Elizabeth Kaye chronicled the history of Clavin’s store in “Salvation Armani” for *Los Angeles Magazine* in January 2001. In 1963, Clavin was

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watching the women at the Hillcrest Country Club parading their magnificent Oleg Cassini and Rudi Gernreich gowns when she had the idea to open her own resale store. These women, she realized, wouldn't dare be seen in the same gown twice, which meant that every one of them must have closets filled with designer clothes that they were never again be able to wear. Clavin borrowed a small commercial space in Manchester from a dentist friend and began collecting cast-offs from her friends. Stylish garments flooded in; she tagged the garments at greatly reduced prices, split the proceeds with the former owners, and, despite the stigma of wearing "used" clothing at that time, founded a successful and viable business.

Clavin opened the AdDress Boutique in 1986 after establishing her reputation as a fashion-savvy retailer and hiring an equally stylish and dedicated staff. Over the years, she has gained access to the closets of many celebrities, buying clothes for her store from stars like Natalie Wood, Zsa Zsa Gabor, and Joan Collins.

People used to only whisper that they had been to a resale store. Today, professional women from all over the world shop resale. Current offerings include: a Pamela Dennis sequined and embroidered hip-length jacket in shades from taupe to gray, accented with pink flowers; a black Chanel V-neck dress with a front slit and low fishtail back in a striped pattern; a black *peau de soie* Valentino couture gown with ostrich feathers on bust worn by a famous celebrity (who is also a customer); a beautiful lime chiffon Dior worn on the runway of the Paris spring 2000 show; and a deeply discounted, brand-new Oscar de la Renta beaded gown, complete with the original price tag.

Clavin's personal collection includes the dress that Zsa Zsa Gabor was arrested in, the dress that Joan Collins wore when she was introduced to the Queen of England, and Madonna's touring jacket from her *I Can Dance* album.

"Mostly I just look for a really cool garment—something that worked back then and is still great now."

— MARK BRIDGES, COSTUME DESIGNER FOR *BLOW AND SIX FEET UNDER*

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DESIGNER RESALE

CASUAL COUTURE, INC.



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13900 Ventura Blvd., Los Angeles 91423; (818) 990-4743 or (877) 990-1193.
Open Mon–Sat: 9:30 a.m.–6 p.m.
www.CasualCouture.com

Managers: Eugene Winnik and Vanessa Young

Return policy: Exchange or store credit only

Try-on Facilities: Four large fitting rooms with mirrors

Casual Couture, Inc. is a 2,500-square-foot, clean, organized store with Greek décor. Garments, found in excellent condition, are arranged by color not size. This boutique carries top designer fashions from all over the world. Look for Alaïa, Thierry Mugler, Moschino, Missoni, Valentino, Emanuel Ungaro, Richard Tyler, Christian Lacroix, Dolce & Gabbana, Versace, Gucci, Prada, Escada, Donna Karan, Chanel, St. John, and Calvin Klein. Black-tie, business attire, sporty, funky, selective vintage, brand new to pre-worn, in petite to larger sizes...there's something for everyone.

CLOTHES HEAVEN



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110 E. Union St., Pasadena 91103; (626) 440-0929.
Open Tues–Sat: 11ish a.m.–5ish p.m.
www.ClothesHeaven.com

Owner: Larayne L. Brannan

Return policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Dressing room with mirror

Clothes Heaven offers a fabulous selection to choose from; updated suits, casualwear, eveningwear, shoes, and accessories—all in superb or gently worn condition. Many of the pieces are consigned from couture representatives, some have been used in studio wardrobes, and others come from

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celebrity closets, stylists, CEOs of corporations, fashion designers, and models. “We receive items from closets in such diverse areas as Malibu, Beverly Hills, Santa Barbara, La Jolla, New York, Arizona, and Texas,” says Brannan.

Looking for the perfect shoe? Current stock includes: Chanel black satin three-inch pumps with gold insoles and a thin band detail on the toe; Prada red loafers to wear with tweeds and flannels; and sexy Chanel sling-back sandals highlighted with gold chain detail and three-inch heels.

Currently showing: a Prada creamy vanilla velvet slip dress with dainty beaded straps, a beaded empire waist, and beautiful black jet beads embellishing the front and back; a Thierry Mugler shapely deep sage suit fashioned from wool waffle weave, featuring the signature Mugler hourglass waist and fully lined and accented with whimsical silver shooting stars at the snap closures; and a hand-rolled silk 34-inch Chanel scarf, stitched in a wine color with emerald and gold adornments.

CROSSROADS TRADING COMPANY



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7409 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles 90046; (323) 782-8100.
Open Mon–Sat: noon–8 p.m., Sun: noon–7 p.m.
www.CrossRoadsTrading.com

Owner: Varies

Return Policy: Store credit within seven days with tag attached and receipt

Try-on Facilities: Spacious dressing rooms with mirrors and locking doors

Crossroads Trading Company locations include San Francisco, Sacramento, Oakland, San Jose, Seattle, Berkeley, Stockton, Santa Cruz, and Los Angeles. They take great pride in having “the best selection of merchandise for their customers and specialize in the most current labels and styles.” They do not buy clothing for resale that has holes, stains, or rips. Their company motto is “look

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good, feel good,” and they are confident that their customers do both. Clean, bright, and well-organized, the store is colorful with an urban industrial theme. Their range of labels and designers include Gap, Banana Republic, J.Crew, Abercrombie & Fitch, BCBG, bebe, Bisou Bisou, Diesel, Club Monaco, Levi’s, Big Star, Express, Calvin Klein, DKNY, Marc Jacobs, Prada, Manolo Blahnik, Betsey Johnson, Helmut Lang, and Gucci.

DECADES TWO LLC



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8214 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles 90046; (323) 655-1960.
Open Mon–Sat: 11:30 a.m.–6 p.m. or by appointment.
www.DecadesTwo.com

Owner: Christos Carrinos and Cameron Silver

Return policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Large, private dressing room, with three-way mirror

Decades Two LLC, the “Barney’s” of designer resale, features merchandise from celebrities, stylists, and fashion editors as well as samples direct from designers. They carry the best of current high-end designer clothing such as Prada, Chloé, Helmut Lang, and Chanel for discriminating customers who want high style for low prices, according to Carrinos and Silver. Source of merchandise? The best dressed folks from all over the world.

Decades Two takes credit for starting the Alaïa trend. At one time they had hundreds of pieces. “Azzedine Alaïa does not think of himself as a fashion designer. Rather, he likes to call himself a *bârisseur*—a builder or a couturier-architect. His designs emphasize structure and purity of form. The fabrics and rigorous tailoring are constructed to envelop the body snugly; each garment is hand-finished.”

The signature Alaïa look began to emerge in the early ’80s with riveted leather, industrial-zipped dresses, a predominance of knit fabrics, and experimental mixes of lace and leather, silk jersey and tweed. In 1994, he showed long dresses

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in “houpette,” a stretchy, new fabric that molds to the body. The following year he made clothes out of “Relax,” an anti-stress fabric with carbon-dipped fibers that repel electromagnetic waves. NASA used it for wall and floor coverings. His hemlines are impervious to the dictates of fashion. They can run from upper-thigh to ankle-length within the same collection.

What is constant, however, are tailoring and cut that follow the same principles as corset making—the use of stays, whalebones, lace-ups, and décolletage to flatter the figure and highlight the bust. Alaïa disappeared from the scene in the mid-’90s but made a major comeback in spring 2000, when his structured silhouettes suddenly became the hippest thing around—again.

Located in an art deco building with 14-foot ceilings, Decades Two currently stocks a plethora of classic leather quilted Chanel handbags; a Marc Jacobs cotton dress with rhinestone pearl attachments; and samples from Ungaro, Tracey Reese, and Plenty.

GREAT LABELS



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1126 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica 90401; (310) 451-2277.
Open Mon–Fri: 11 a.m.–7 p.m., Sat: 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun: noon–5 p.m.

Owner: Andrea Waters

Return Policy: Case by case basis

Try-on Facilities: Four large dressing rooms with full-length mirrors

Great Labels is an 1,800-square-foot elegant boutique that carries hip contemporary designers like Vivienne Tam, Vertigo, Trina Turk, Theory, Richard Tyler, Prada, and Miu Miu. “My personal background involved working for Calvin Klein and Donna Karan on a national level,” says Waters, “but my love for clothes and shopping introduced me to resale.” For the past five years Waters learned the business and is now the proud owner of her own boutique that specializes in gently used contemporary clothing, shoes, handbags, and accessories.

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Waters’ most fabulous find, now in her personal collection, is a Prada gown worn to the Academy Awards.

LISA’S NY STYLE RESALE



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13531 Ventura Blvd., Los Angeles 91423; (818) 788-2142.
Open Mon–Sat: 11 a.m.–6 p.m. or by appointment.

Owner: Lisa Beth Zohar

Return Policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Private fitting rooms

Lisa’s NY Style Resale is bright, relaxed, and eclectic; the walls are covered with interesting outfits, scarves, jewelry, and hats, including some ethnic pieces such as Chinese robes. An ex-New Yorker, Lisa Zohar’s store reflects the colorful and artistic personality of its owner. Zohar says she is not at all label-conscious; she looks for pieces that are original, different, and fun to wear.

There are plenty of serious pantsuits and businesswear, and currently a bright red Geoffrey Beene sheared mink coat trimmed with ostrich feathers is also for sale. At the other end of the spectrum, the \$10 room has finds such as a white silk pantsuit by INC. Zohar will stay open by appointment if needed to accommodate the working woman’s busy schedule and will do personalized searches for customers who are looking for something specific.

“I carry every designer—from couture high-end to wonderful boutique clothing—including Armani, Chanel, St. John, Yves Saint Laurent, Richard Tyler, and Moschino, and an extensive collection of vintage jewelry. I love unusual and different pieces in everything from today’s fashions to vintage pieces from the ’30s to ’80s,” says Zohar. “Glamorous clothing is wonderful, and I love unusual fabrics, patterns, and styles. I like to pick the pieces of an era with glitz, sophistication, and intrigue.”

TV’s *Felicity* and *Dharma & Greg* have wardrobe from this boutique.

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P.J. LONDON

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11661 San Vicente Blvd., Los Angeles 90049; (310) 826-4649.

Open Mon–Sat: 10:30 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun: noon–5 p.m.

www.PJLondon.com

Owner: Phyllis Davis

Return policy: Next day exchange

Try-on Facilities: Five private dressing rooms with mirrors

P.J. London is where to find the latest fashions at a fraction of the retail cost. This upscale consignment shop features a collection of high-quality, pre-worn clothing that is current and impeccably cared for. Davis has been in business for over 15 years, offering the finest designer clothing and accessories by Chanel Boutique, Ralph Lauren Collection, DKNY, St. John, Jean Paul Gaultier Femme, Calvin Klein, Cartier, Armani, Dries Van Noten, Plantation, Thierry Mugler, Hervé Léger, Dolce & Gabbana, Issey Miyake, Todd Oldham, TSE, Richard Tyler, Vivienne Westwood, Alaïa, People of the Labrynth, Gigli, Gucci, Jil Sander, Moschino, Matsuda and Yamamoto.

“I carry real jewelry and fake and old costume jewelry. I love ’40s costume jewelry such as Miriam Haskell. We have shoes galore that range from Manolo Blahniks to Miu Miu to Prada to Weitzman. We have Fendi bags that have never been used. We have Chanel and Bottega bags as well. The fun part is never knowing what will arrive in the store each and every day,” says Davis. This is one of a handful of resale stores that also carries wedding gowns.

Lots of celebrities and society people consign here, though Davis carefully guards her client list. Current treasures: a Claire collection long, beaded gown in blue; a Maxfield Parrish leather jacket; Fendi shoes with matching wallet; a new Fendi bag with encrusted jewels; and 15 pairs of Manolo Blahniks—many never used.

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DESIGNER RESALE

THE PLACE & Co.

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8820 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles 90045; (310) 645-1539.

Open Mon–Sat: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

www.ThePlaceandCo.com

Owner: Joyce Brock

Return policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Large private dressing rooms with mirrors

The Place & Co. is the place for resale designer clothing, where fashions of the stars become the affordable attire of savvy and stylish women and men who visit from around the world. Clothes worn by the likes of Elizabeth Taylor, Bette Midler, Dyan Cannon, Anjelica Houston, Tori and Candy Spelling, Joan and Jackie Collins, and Jay Leno are sold with the proceeds going to their favorite charity.

“We were the first designer resale store in the country, after Encore in New York,” says Brock. In business for 37 years, this 4,000-square-foot store is separated into three areas—career sportswear, eveningwear, and forward fashion sportswear; you will also find accessories. Everything is top quality, including Armani, Gucci, Prada, Escada, St. John, Richard Tyler, Thierry Mugler, Badgley Mischka, Bill Blass, and Sonia Rykiel—all 65 to 85 percent off retail prices. There is also a large collection of Judith Leiber beaded handbags—particular favorites of Brock’s. Current finds include: a black Chanel dress and stole, embroidered with the Chanel logo; 50 pairs of Chanel shoes, all new; and a Gianfranco Ferré three-piece outfit of beaded chiffon in bronze and blue.

“Look at everything. When you think you have finished, go back and look again.”

—RUTH MYERS, OSCAR-NOMINATED COSTUME DESIGNER FOR EMMA

DESIGNER RESALE

LOS ANGELES

RAVISHING RESALE

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8127 W. Third St., Los Angeles 90048; (323) 655-8480.
Open Tues–Sat: 11:30 a.m.–6 p.m. or by appointment.

Owner: Maruschka

Return policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Three dressing rooms and several full-length mirrors

Ravishing Resale, a peach and green store, plays classical music to accompany contemporary Armani, Chanel, Escada, Hermès, Richard Tyler, Pamela Dennis, Dolce & Gabbana, and Moschino, all sold alongside vintage pieces.

A recent visit turned up a fabulous '50s white Saga mink stole with removable white mink tassels (previously owned by Phyllis Diller) in immaculate condition and a '70s elegant Jean Louis hand-painted silk organza gown with fishtail hem worn by Loretta Young. And how about this showstopper? A Karl Lagerfeld (circa 1989) cream silk sparkle gown, halter-style, that looks like a Marilyn Monroe dress, and is full length and adorned with celestial glitter and crystals.

Maruschka specializes in high quality and designer contemporary clothes because “my customers like wearing expensive clothes at unbelievable prices. I am extremely selective about clothes I accept on consignment, and they all are in excellent condition—some with tags still attached. In fact when people come in at first glance they think they’re in a fashionable boutique and not a resale store.”

“I used a wonderful red 1930s blouse on Kate Hudson in *Almost Famous*, as my research told me that it was in the '70s that we really started getting into vintage. It was a romantic period, post-hippy, pre-glam. We had no money, and leather and lace just seemed to come together.”

—BETSY HEIMANN, COSTUME DESIGNER FOR *ALMOST FAMOUS* AND *VANILLA SKY*

LOS ANGELES

DESIGNER RESALE

REPLAY

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147 S. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena 91101; (626) 793-3987.
Open Tues–Sat: 10:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Owner: Betty Stein

Return policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Three large fitting rooms with full-length mirrors

Replay is a New York-style boutique with a lovely garden entry. Gathered from over 3,500 individual consignors, as well as store overruns, Stein specializes in current chic clothing for the working professional with St. John Knits, DKNY, Anne Klein II, Calvin Klein, Dana Buchman, David Hayes, Ellen Tracy, Platinum, Jones New York, and Armani and offers new arrivals daily in size 2 to 26.

Stock currently includes: a lovely light blue St. John knit suit with sparkle trim from their spring 2002/Cruise collection; a zip-front jacket dress in black knit (silk and spandex) by Wayne Rogers; and new seconds from Johnny Was/J. Jill at “giveaway prices.”

“Some years ago Replay received hundreds of new items when an Amen Wardy store closed. A customer purchased a particularly lovely gown from this group and wore it to a ball where [fashion critic] Mr. Blackwell commented on its beauty,” says Stein. Interested in a never-worn gown from the Amen Wardy store (with the original price tag of \$12,000 still on it)?

Replay has been across the street from the Hilton Hotel since Stein opened it in 1981. “On several occasions visiting divas staying at the Hilton Hotel across the street found better gowns to wear that very evening for their local performance,” says Stein. “Another time a regular customer received a last minute invitation to attend the Academy Awards. Lucky for her she remembered a fabulous gown she had seen at Replay. Not only did she get a knockout dress but at a bargain price!”

Replay II, owned by Stein’s daughter, is just down the street at 105 S. Los Robles Ave., (626) 793-4501.

DESIGNER RESALE

LOS ANGELES

RITZ RESALE

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50 N. Mentor Ave., Pasadena 91106; (626) 449-3528.
 Open Tues–Sat: noon–6 p.m.
 www.RitzResale.com

Owner: Liz McDuffie

Return Policy: All sales final

Try-on Facilities: Large dressing room

Ritz Resale has specialized in the sale of new and pre-owned women’s clothing and accessories since 1979. Current styles of designer and brand names, such as TSE, Philippe Adec, Escada, Prada, and Mui Mui, are displayed in a comfortable setting with wood beams and a cement floor.

Currently in stock: new Prada mules in black leather; an Escada two-piece sweater set in periwinkle rayon and viscose; and a like-new Chanel black, wool crêpe pantsuit. One of McDuffie’s most fabulous finds was a Russian sable coat, consigned by KCET public television station, appraised at \$80,000 by Saks Beverly Hills and sold for \$6,600. An Angela Bassett fan? McDuffie sells clothes from all of her films, including a fringed leather jacket that she wore and wardrobe from *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*. “We also consign a lot of high-end, ‘after sale’ items from boutiques,” adds McDuffie.

SILENT PARTNERS

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99 E. Union St., Pasadena 91103; (626) 793-6877.
 Open Tues–Sat: 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Owner: Alyce Doney

Return policy: Case by case basis

Try-on Facilities: Two areas with mirrors

Silent Partners is housed in a charming one-room, freestanding building. Doney carries great outfits from defunct TV sitcoms, including *Who’s the Boss*

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and *Designing Women*. She also carries all the jewelry from Universal Studios’ wardrobe department along with garments by Anne Klein, Issey Miyake, Ferragamo, Ellen Tracy, Escada, Sonya Rykiel, and Chanel. “Our original premise was to have a shop infused with the top popular designers with clothes for every occasion,” she says.

The most interesting piece she has collected is from Marion Marshall Wagner (Robert’s second wife), who gave Doney a blouse made of antique lace in black and red, which she still treasures. Current offerings include Hermès leather-trimmed grey wool pants and several Gucci wool skirts and jackets trimmed in leather. If you’re in the market for glamour, ask about their Jean Louis pieces.

Additional Resale Stores

Armani Wells: 12404 Ventura Blvd., Los Angeles 91604; (818) 985-5899.

Laura’s Designer Resale Boutique: 12426 Ventura Blvd., Los Angeles 91604; (818) 752-2835.

Lily et Cie: 9044 Burton Way, Beverly Hills 90211; (310) 724-5757.

Second Debut: 3309 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank 91505; (818) 848-8800.