

SPRING FEVER

FEEL-GOOD
FASHION

SCULPTURAL HAIR

FRAGRANCE
REFRESH

LOOKING FORWARD

INCLUSIVE
ARCHITECTURE

WOMEN IN
AUTOMOTIVE

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SEASON OF RENEWAL

For philanthropist Suzanne Rogers, mixing seasonal classics with new favourites is the key to mastering spring style.

It happens every spring. As the April thaw

makes way for blossom-blessed May, I feel rejuvenated. It is, I think, my favourite time of year. The days grow longer, the nights grow warmer, and there's an almost magical sense of freshness, of new beginnings, in the air. Fashion lightens up, literally and figuratively. Gone are the winter boots, the heavy coats and layers. Pastels, florals, crisp linens, and creamy cottons re-emerge, sunny and vibrant.

Wardrobe refreshment is a welcome springtime rite, and I'll confess to having brightened many a gray winter evening previewing the Spring/Summer 2018 collections. Pink is my perennial go-to. It may seem clichéd, but I find it impossible to equate pink with anything but happiness. I always look forward to seeing how designers interpret various pink shades, particularly for spring. Among my favourites is New Zealand-born Londoner Emilia Wickstead's low-backed, red Gretallia dress, with twin columns of pale pink bows.

But when it comes time for spring-cleaning our closets, too often the credo "out with the old, in with the new" prevails. I prefer a more balanced approach, blending some carefully chosen new pieces with beloved seasonal classics that can be renewed year after year. I've never been a fan of "fast fashion," preferring the lasting value, and unerring style, of true investment items.

Several years ago, I purchased a pink Chanel jacket that remains timeless. Whether it's a cozy Mayfair lunch at Robin Birley's boho-chic 5 Hertford Street or front row at Paris Fashion Week, it always sets just the right tone. I have another jacket that will get renewed attention, a gorgeous Givenchy crafted of intricate white lace, which seems to work with everything. A linen Dolce and Gabbana dress has been a springtime staple for seven years and still feels fresh and new. For more formal events, I'll definitely be revisiting another long-time favourite, a superbly detailed floral gown from Paul & Joe, whose Parisian founder Sophie Mechaly (she named the company for her two young sons) has always maintained "accessible luxury" as her guiding principle, an aesthetic I heartily applaud.

This season can't come fast enough. I'll be all set, and hopefully you'll be too, with the perfect sartorial mix of old and new to put a spring in your step!



Backstage at the Emilia Wickstead Spring/Summer 2018 runway show.

Suzanne Rogers: photo by Chris Nichols. Bottom: photo courtesy of EmiliaWickstead.