

# Travel



**L.A. GORGEOUS** When in Los Angeles, shop as the young Hollywood elite do. Elyse Glickman and Angela Braden hit the town to expose the below-the-radar shops, spots and stuff adulated by celebrity word-of-mouth.

If your notion of the ultimate L.A. experience is shaped by the lifestyles of the local Hollywood elite, go about your visit with the mindset of a determined actress looking for that juicy plum of a role. Don't count on skyscraper-sized billboards to tell you what's hot – you'll risk spending a small fortune while missing out on the true treasures. Covert, not overt, is the secret to L.A. style – all those insider shopping haunts, hush-hush sales and word-of-mouth credo make valuable information for the young starlet who wants to stand out on the red carpet in an outfit as original as she'd like herself to be seen. While Gucci, Prada and Louis Vuitton can easily make heads swivel and flashbulbs pop, the mixing of high fashion with highly original fashion (read: vintage, up-and-coming designers, customisation) has all the makings of a premiere hit.

## CITY OF COOL

Anything easily incorporated into the L.A. uniform of jeans-and-a-sexy-top (dressed up or down depending on whether you are attending a premiere or attending to a Chai latte craving) is quintessentially L.A. This official fashion capital of casual chic has produced several up-and-coming brands as well as established-as-hot designers, making a new shopping list unavoidable. Start off with fabulous silk appliquéd tanks from Akiko for that so-beautiful-without-trying look and slinky camis from Pink Polkadot. For off-duty T-shirts, Soulful Self's image-building "mirror tees" (a hit with Courtney Cox and Cindy Crawford) can be found at the beloved Intuition boutique on Pico Boulevard. The breast-cancer-supporting line, founded by Leslie Dry, a 30-something survivor, is