



Vintage looks have reinvigorated red-carpet dressing in 2022. From left: Bella Hadid, Zendaya, Olivia Rodrigo, Kim Kardashian, HoYeon Jung, Emily Ratajkowski and Adut Akech

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VIVA LA VINTAGE

Retro red-carpet style is a booming business in 2022, where fashion's old has become Hollywood gold – often matched by a suitably hefty price tag

JONAH WATERHOUSE

When Julia Roberts accepted her Academy Award for Erin Brokovich in 2001, it was more than just the beauty of her black-and-white Valentino gown that had fashion insiders talking. Unlike other attendees wearing custom attire by of-the-moment designers, Roberts' dress was a decade old, her retro garb an aberration from the rest of the crowd.

Today, perceptions of vintage fashion are very different. Old fashion is no longer 'old-fashioned', and celebrities sporting pre-loved attire has been on the upward for a few years now. One only needs to look to the year's major red-carpet moments for proof.

At last month's Fashion Trust Arabia awards in Qatar, supermodel Bella Hadid wore a slinky black gown one may have mistaken for a new designer; nonetheless, it hailed from a 1986 collection by the late Tunisian designer Azzedine Alaïa, making it a decade older than Hadid herself.

At July's Time 100 Gala, actor Zendaya wore a black and blue taffeta gown from 1998, designed by long-time Cher collaborator Bob Mackie. "I tried this stunning fall 1998 couture gown on a few years

ago and it never left [my] dreams," the Euphoria star wrote to her 156 million Instagram followers. A month prior, Gen-Z superstar Olivia Rodrigo wore black Jean Paul Gaultier, featuring a hint of the designer's conical bra made famous by Madonna in the early '90s, at the MTV Movie & TV Awards.

Vintage has also been used to channel pivotal historic moments. Kim Kardashian embodied history – and courted controversy – by wearing Marilyn Monroe's 'Happy Birthday Mr. President' dress from 1962 at May's Met Gala.

For the same event, Louis Vuitton ambassadors Emma Stone and HoYeon Jung opted out of brand-new ensembles, instead sporting pre-worn dresses from the maison's archives.

Supermodel Emily Ratajkowski wore a chainlink Versace outfit from the brand's '90s heyday, and South Sudanese-Australian model Adut Akech Bior donned elegant vintage Christian Lacroix, worn backwards for an additional unique spin. Viva la vintage revolution.

Akech Bior's look was sourced from Shrimpton Couture, the LA boutique filled with hard-to-find vintage fashion that's favoured by entertainment's glitterati – Katy



Perry, Ariana DeBose and Succession's Sarah Snook among them.

"I often tell the story of how I bought a very expensive vintage dress online, which was way out of the norm at the time as very few people were selling vintage online 16 or so years ago," founder and vintage expert Cherie Balch recalls. "It came shoved in an envelope and crumpled and I thought, 'I could do this better!'"

Identifying a hole in the market for museum-worthy vintage, Balch left her "real job" in 2008 to work on the archive. However, even she's surprised by recent interest in historic fashion, propelled by the likes of Bella Hadid and the Kardashian-Jenner family.

As for the most sought-after brands, Balch cites Christian Dior and Alexander McQueen – labels with unique heritages and dedicated collectors with money to spend.



Moda Operandi founder Lauren Santo Domingo, left, and a 1990 Vivienne Westwood corset, above, sold on the site

In some examples, prices of these brands have risen by "hundreds of percentages".

"[Vintage] does have a place on the red carpet and now, when there is not a vintage moment, people even feel disappointed," she adds.

Balch's archive is a carefully curated offering of historic pieces, but if you've come across something old and expensive in your wardrobe and are looking to make a mint, selling clothes online is now much easier. Online fashion marketplace Depop has become a one-stop shop for pre-loved clothing and counts over 20 million users. Agustin Panzoni, Depop's category manager for womenswear, singled out Bella Hadid's branding power among young customers, even calling it "The Bella Effect".

"The #ArchiveFashion tag on TikTok has amassed over 14 million views and we have seen a 25 per cent increase of searches on

Depop, as people look to express their individuality through one-of-a-kind looks while staying conscious of the environment," Panzoni adds.

Sydney-based seller Ari Celermajer Kiko De Bono began on Depop before opening her own vintage store, Kiko Vintage, which stocks labels like Chanel and Jean Paul Gaultier. She chalks popularity up to these designers' cult followings, as well as the environmental concerns shared by young Australian customers.

"It's like, how can I satisfy my creativity, and dress in a way that I feel represents me and speaks to a history of fashion, and also in a way that isn't going to f—k up the planet?" she says.

The growing vintage market initially presented a conundrum for online shopping destinations, which typically encourage customers to buy brand new. Nonetheless, businesses are cleverly adapting. Take Lauren Santo Domingo, co-founder and chief brand officer of luxury e-commerce site Moda Operandi, which has incorporated vintage "trunk shows" into its offerings from LA archival fashion store Tab Vintage. Shoppers can buy authentic pieces from Vivienne Westwood, Roberto Cavalli and Gucci, delivered as though brand new.

"Everyone always says they want to buy things that are 'timeless' – coats, blazers, trench coats, trousers – which means one can wear them forever; they never go out of style," Santo Domingo shares. "But this sort of 'vintage' that is of a particular moment in time, is actually the most iconic, and ready for a comeback."

"Interest in vintage is rising, so it seems like a logical pairing to team up [with Moda Operandi] and pro-

vide the best archival vintage collection we could," Tab Vintage founder Alexis Novak says. She cites a Comme des Garçons piece, displayed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, as one of the vintage items made available to customers, proving the museum-worthy quality of the range.

Buying into exclusivity is one thing, but former Vogue UK fashion editor Bay Garnett is naturally drawn to the nostalgia and escapism old clothing provides. Dubbed the 'Queen of Thrift', Garnett is one of the fashion industry's biggest endorsers of vintage, and says she was confused by fashion's hunger for newness since the beginning of her career.

"I never really understood fashion editors shooting the same dress all around the world at the same time," she says. "I always got real pleasure and more of a sense of fun and anarchy using second-hand [clothes] in shoots. Everything being new is not real life, it's not interesting to me."

While recognising the influence of vintage on red carpets, Garnett thinks celebrities wearing cast-off clothes in their everyday lives is more influential. She cites model Kendall Jenner and actress Chloë Sevigny, who wear it "as just part of their wardrobe grabbing a coffee. I think it's more influential when it's worn in a cooler, more low-key kind of way".

The consensus from Depop lends itself to this argument; searches for 'Y2K' on the platform have risen 62 per cent in the past month, with 'cargo skirt' and 'cargo pants' seeing a 560 per cent and 215 per cent year-on-year increase. Whether a couture dress or cargo pants, what was once old has certainly become new again.

City's expanding fashion precinct on trend with luxury boom

ANNIE BROWN

When French jeweller Cartier opens the doors to its new flagship, on the corner of King and George streets in the Sydney CBD this Thursday, the intention is to create a unique retail experience.

Cartier Australia and New Zealand managing director Alban du Mesnil says this will align Sydney with the jeweller's global strategy for its boutiques.

"The maison started a full renovation of the key flagships in the world a few years ago. The idea was really to move away from the standard concepts that would be exactly the same everywhere, with the intention that a client would have exactly the same experience in Sydney and in Tokyo or in Mexico. Now we want to immerse our flagships in their local environments. We want this flagship to really be a place of interaction and of connection," he says.

The design of the Sydney flag-



NICK CURBBIN

The new Cartier boutique

ship is by the French architectural firm Moinard Béteilie, which has overseen Cartier's boutique designs globally since 2002, and incorporates touches of Australianness. This includes collaborations with local craftspeople and Manapan and Bula'bula Arts, Indigenous artisan collectives from Arnhem Land and Milingimbi Island communities, as well as nods to recognisable Australian iconography such as the Sydney Harbour

Bridge. On the first floor is the opal bar, which will serve up bespoke cocktails by Sydney cocktail bar Maybe Sammy.

"It's really this interesting dialogue between the country itself and its environment. We will, of course, be fully true to (Cartier's) identity and also pay tribute to the place where we are, which is a stunning city, and an incredible country — its spaces, the colours, the flora and fauna, is really the inspiration of every single line and representation in the boutique," says Mr Du Mesnil.

What customers increasingly want, says Mr Du Mesnil, is an "experience" rather than something purely transactional.

Transactions are certainly happening, though. The high-end luxury market has so far proved particularly bullish in the face of the global pandemic, uncertainty and rising inflation.

Earlier this month, LVMH, which owns brands such as Louis Vuitton, Dior and Bulgari, repor-

ted sales of fashion and leather goods were up 22 per cent in the third quarter, while Hermès posted a 24 per cent increase in sales in the quarter to the end of September. Industry publication The Business of Fashion, in conjunction with consultancy firm McKinsey, noted in its State of Fashion 2022 report that pent-up demand, or so-called "revenge shopping", is partly driving the trend. The report also stated that "hard luxury" such as jewellery was particularly sound, with demand for branded fine jewellery expected to grow between 8 and 12 per cent from 2019 to 2025.

In Sydney, the new Cartier flagship joins a high-end retail boom in the CBD, and continues the expansion of luxury precincts from Castlereagh to King, George and Market streets and their surrounds.

Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore says the arrival of the Cartier flagship on George St, home to the new "pedestrian light rail", speaks to the area becoming a "major precinct" in the CBD, as

well as the bounce back of the city centre from the Covid pandemic. "Cartier's arrival confirms that recovery. As one of the world's great brands, it puts its mark on the street and acts as a rallying point for other luxury brands and we look forward to welcoming more residents, businesses and visitors into the heart of Sydney," Ms Moore says.

Following extensive renovations for the likes of Dior's Castlereagh St flagship, the doubling in size of the Celine boutique in Westfield – with the new design concept overseen by Celine creative director Hedi Slimane – and new CBD arrivals such as Swiss watchmaker Roger Dubois, a new flagship for the French jeweller Chaumet will also open in December.

In March 2023, so, too, will a "world of Ralph Lauren" flagship on the corner of Pitt and King. Meanwhile, luxury Italian brands Brunello Cucinelli and Missoni will have their first Australian retail stores, with Gennaro Autore, founding director of the Graaf

Group, bringing the brands in as part of the \$170m overhaul of the Harry Seidler-designed MLC Centre (now 25 Martin Place).

Amanda Pieriboni, head of transactions and development – retail, healthcare and alternates at real estate group Dexis, says the creation of new luxury precincts speaks to an exciting time for Sydney's CBD.

"When we talk about luxury, it is the whole experience. It includes the type of dining that our customers are seeking. This is what we have seen since we opened the new dining and arts precinct at 25 Martin Place," she says.

Gennaro Autore says the opening of the two new boutiques alongside new flagships for fellow Italian luxury brands Valentino (opening late November) and Dolce & Gabbana turns the precinct into a "destination".

"I think (the) four brands re-opening at one time to that level makes an interesting event," he says.

Secret to golden chardonnay hangs in the balance

THE AUSTRALIAN WINE

JOHN LEHMANN
CELLAR DIRECTOR



"We're a bit chardy crazy up here," Mountadam winemaker Caitlin Brown jokes, from her perch in the high country of Eden Valley.

It's hard not to get a little obsessed about the queen of grape varieties when one of Australia's oldest cool climate chardonnay vineyards is a treasured piece of your domain.

The custodians of Mountadam – Caitlin and her winemaking predecessors – have been taking its chardonnay seriously since legendary wine entrepreneur David Wynn planted the first estate grapes in 1972, believing the high-altitude site was capable of producing cool-climate wines of elegance and structure.

The superb Mountadam High Eden Chardonnay 2019 leads The Australian Wine Club's final chardonnay special offer of 2022, with our line-up featuring high quality wines from Margaret River, Hunter Valley and the Adelaide Hills, as well as Eden Valley.

I've discovered over the past two years of writing this weekly column that our chardonnay offers are consistently the biggest sellers – so if you've been under the misguided impression that chardonnay is out of fashion, you better join those in the know and jump on board.

The best Australian chardonnays show a lovely balance between fruit richness, acid freshness and oak-derived characters. The style spectrum will change from wine to wine – with some winemakers favouring more oak influence than others but the key is keeping everything in balance.

At Mountadam, Caitlin admits she gets "pretty excited" about integrating different types of oak with the pristine chardonnay fruit grown in the High Eden vineyard, which sits between 550m and 580m above sea level at the highest point in Eden Valley.

"It's fruit purity that makes our wine special but I do have an interest in using different types of oak – whether it be larger format, some older oak – to develop textural layers," she said. "Over the years, chardonnay has probably become our main wine at Mountadam so I'm respectful of our style and try to be fairly consistent."

Caitlin spent her teenage years at Mountadam after her parents, Limestone Coast graziers and grape growers David and Jenni Brown, acquired the winery from Mötet Hennessy Wine Estates in 2000.

Her return as winemaker came after she experienced vintages at Leeuwin Estate in Margaret River, Sidewood Estate in the Adelaide Hills and at Killian Hunn Baden in Germany and worked as assistant winemaker at Hardys Tintara in McLaren Vale.

"Coming back to Mountadam has been special as it's a pretty unique place and such a beautiful property," she says.

"When the vineyards were first planted, David Wynn had that dream of making Burgundian-style chardonnay and we're fortunate to have those very special vines that are now 50 years old."

The chardonnays below are all nicely poised to enhance your summer fun. They vary in style and express regional flavours and characters but all have that key ingredient of balance.



Mountadam Vineyards High Eden Estate Chardonnay 2019

Respected wine critic Tyson Stelzer believes the 2019 High Eden will "set this vintage among the greats from this historic estate". Bright citrus, white peach, nectarine, vanilla coconut characters slide seamlessly together in a triumph of fruit purity, minerality and oak integration. Fermented in 60 per cent new French oak and seasoned barriques, with partial malolactic fermentation bringing a creaminess to the palate that stretches out to a long refreshing finish. Complex and charismatic. An utter bargain in this chardonnay deal. 14.3% alc; \$RRP \$40 a bottle.

SPECIALS \$28.99 a bottle in any dozen; \$22.99 a bottle in chardonnay dozen

Byron & Harold Rags to Riches Margaret River Chardonnay 2021

This Margaret River star is the brainchild of Paul Byron and Ralph (Harold) Dunning who together have more than 65 years of experience in the Australian wine trade. Bryan & Harold was launched in 2012 and scored a 5-star rating from James Halliday when named as one of his top 10 "new wineries" in 2015. Attractive aromas of peach, citrus and a touch of almond lead to complex flavours of lemon curd, stone fruit and nougat with toasty oak influences in the background. Super fine, elegant structure in the style of a good Chablis. (A wine-loving friend of mine says this wine walks like a French woman but talks like an Antipodean goddess – but I'm not sure I fully understand!). Superb value. 12.2% alc; RRP \$32 a bottle.

SPECIALS \$21.99 a bottle in any dozen; \$22.99 a bottle in chardonnay dozen

Dalwood Estate Hunter Valley Chardonnay 2021

From a historic vineyard on the banks of the Hunter River, widely regarded as the birthplace of Hunter Valley wine. The 2021 lures you in with aromas of stonefruit and Chinese five spice. Peach, melon and citrus flavours wash across the palate, with supporting touches of cashew and almond meal. Grapefruit-like acidity leaves a fresh finish. Another great vintage from an iconic site. 95 points from James Halliday. 12.5% alc; RRP \$35 a bottle.

SPECIALS \$27.99 in any dozen; \$22.99 in chardonnay dozen

Zonte's Footstep Dusk Til Dawn Adelaide Hills Chardonnay 2021

Bursting with summer goodness: aromas of lime zest and coconut with a hint of almond and vanilla, with flavours of honeydew melon, yellow peach, lemon, coconut and vanilla bean. Nice tang of acid on the palate, with a subtle nutty texture from seven months maturation in seasoned oak barriques. Tangy acidity drives the wine home. Barbecued bugs, with garlic and butter always a grand chardonnay partner. 13% alc; RRP \$35 a bottle.

SPECIALS \$27.99 in any dozen; \$22.99 in chardonnay dozen

CHARDONNAY SPECIAL Three bottles of each wine above for \$22.99 a bottle. SAVE \$150 a dozen.

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