

## » FASHION FIX

# The Skinny on Orlando's Fashion-Forward Style

By Kristen Manieri

Make a list of the world's best cities for shopping and New York City, Paris and Milan are sure to top it. But 12 shopping malls and outlets plus a smattering of not-to-be-missed boutique districts have made Orlando a fashionista favorite, too. Orlando has shops offering everything from \$2 t-shirts to \$2,000 Gucci handbags at great prices. This, according to wardrobe stylist and resident fashion guru Melanie Pace, is the reason Orlando is a fave destination of luxury shoppers.

"What's really great about Orlando is that you can find just about anything you could possibly want, at prices you probably won't find anywhere else," Pace says. As the personal shopper to local A-listers, Pace spends an average of four days a week shopping, most often at the Mall at Millenia where she is a go-to shopping and fashion expert.

Since launching her styling business in 2006, Pace has become a style speaker for Neiman Marcus and Bloomingdale's, and the trend informer and stylist to a countless number of magazines. This September will mark her fourth year styling fashion shows for the Mall at Millenia Fashion Week. Taking place September 8-18, Fashion Week will host a collection of runway shows designed to rival some of the world's premier fashion events.

"This year our Fashion Week is taking place at the same time as the official Fashion Week in New York City, which is really exciting," says Pace. George Kotsiopoulos, co-host of E! Entertainment's "Fashion Police," will be this year's

celebrity guest. Pace assures that attendees will catch a glimpse of all the major fashion names and pieces being unveiled at New York, Paris and Milan runways, as well. "We're definitely going to put on an incredible week of fashion that attendees will really enjoy," she says. While Pace will have to wait, like everyone else, to see what trend-setting styles saunter down the runway, she has a good idea of what will top the list of fall's must-haves: "Colored fur, novelty sweaters, chokers and bright bags are in. Also, think 60s and polka dots."

## SHOP THE OUTLETS

For die-hard shoppers, Orlando's top-notch outlet scene is just as thrilling as its theme parks. The deals are aplenty year round and even novice bargain hunters can find some treasures. Melanie Pace offers some strategies for smart, successful shopping.

- » **Plan your route ahead of time. Get a map (usually found online) and scope out the stores you really want to go to.**
- » **Go directly to the sale or clearance rack. You'll find great seasonal items in this section at a guaranteed low price.**
- » **Make sure you're actually getting a deal. No matter how cheap it is, if you'll never actually wear it, what's the point?**
- » **Try things on and make sure you love it. Keep in mind that most sale and clearance items are final sale.**
- » **Be sure to wear comfortable shoes that reflect a fashionable trend.**



Mall at Millenia Fashion Week

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