

Destination shopping

Three fashion hounds share insider intell on Toronto's retail scene.

By Lara Ceroni

Photography by Paula Wilson

DESIGNER

Aya MacMillan loves luxury

MAY WE SUGGEST....

Strolling the luxury-centric **Mink Mile (Bloor St. W. between Avenue Rd. and Yonge St.)** and **Yorkville (bloor-yorkville.com)** for **Holt Renfrew, Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Coach, Cartier, Harry Rosen** and much, much more. Upscale eateries and chi-chi galleries enhance the upmarket retail-therapy vibe. If it rains, head to the neighbourhood's indoor fashion plaza, **Hazelton Lanes (hazeltonlanes.com)**.



Hazelton Lanes



Holt Renfrew

As editorial director of *Glam Canada*, what other look would **Aya MacMillan** rock? Whether she's sporting a Burberry suit or rock-star studded pumps from Valentino, glam pieces are key to her style coda, which she describes as "sophisticated with an edge."

The Room at The Bay (hbc.com), is an absolute must, says MacMillan. "The Room at The Bay is genius! I think it carries the most innovative labels in Canada—Mary Katrantzou, Christopher Kane, Olympia Le-Tan and Margiela," she says. And try **TNT (tntfashion.ca)** in the tony Yorkville neighbourhood: "Parisian labels Sandro and Maje, two of my favourites, are carried here."

Mink Mile on Bloor Street between Avenue Road and Yonge Street is another one-stop shopping destination: "All the big luxury brands are on Bloor: **Chanel, Burberry, Hermès, LV!** And for boutiques, **Holt's** is always on my list," enthuses MacMillan.

The hipster 'hood of Dundas and Ossington has a number of haute haunts that MacMillan gravitates toward, but **Jonathan+Olivia (jonathanandolivia.com)** with its "young, fun vibe" is her weekend favourite. "They always carry a great selection of Isabel Marant, whom I love," she says. "They respond very well to Twitter or email, so I'm always up to date when a new shipment comes in."

Macmillan avoids a matchy-matchy look by peppering her new finds with high-end, designer vintage, such as a pre-loved Chanel brooch or Hermès bag. This luxury aficionado prefers a curated shopping environment, however, rather than the free-for-all approach of traditional vintage shopping: "**I Miss You** does a beautiful job: you never feel like you're heading into an attic. The pieces are always interesting, and the owner really knows her stuff. Case in point: *Vogue's* international editor at large Hamish Bowles is a client!"

MacMillan's advice for making the most of your time shopping Toronto? "Invest in quality pieces. Find that one item that you will have and love forever."



Bloor Street

Photography: Clifton Li (Holt Renfrew & Hazelton Lanes)

VINTAGE

Noah Lehava treasures vintage

"My girls from the 'burbs think I dress like a grandma, whereas my co-workers tend to appreciate my multifarious style a bit more," says **Noah Lehava**, the vintage-loving web editor of *ELLE Canada*, with a laugh.

Nothing satisfies Lehava more than scoring those hidden standout pieces. "When I'm digging through '80s dance costumes or really bad polyester blouses, then stumble upon that gorgeous oft-discarded designer find, nothing ever compares." Lehava touts designer consignment shop **Fashionably Yours** (fashionablyyours.ca) in the artsy Queen West neighbourhood as a prime location to work those arms and that credit card. Expect monogrammed Louis Vuitton handbags, Cartier love rings, Christian Louboutin pumps and coveted Céline accessories.

Going from upscale to cheap and chic, Lehava says no vintage-shopping safari is complete without a trip (or three) to **Value Village** (valuevillage.com). The thrift shop chain has shops dotting the city and a diehard cult following. "Trust me, people; I've found some of my most treasured items here!" Case in point: a Burberry trench for \$25, a Chloé skirt for \$6 and an authentic Fendi bag for \$2.

On Sundays, Lehava trawls the stalls at one of Toronto's most beloved outdoor markets, the St. Lawrence Market. Here tables are laden with vintage jewels by way of Italy and Nepal, Victorian antiques and collectibles dating from the 19th century.

Lehava says vintage shopping in Toronto is as much about the find as the journey. "It takes commitment to find good vintage, but it's worth it," she says. "The tailoring, fabric and detailing are incomparable."

MAY WE SUGGEST...

Starting a vintage search party at **Kensington Market** (kensington-market.ca), where the streets are filled with a ragtag mix of secondhand clothing and accessories shops, covering ground ranging from Victorian antiques to retro rags. Head south down to **Queen St. W.**, to check out a diverse array of boutiques and fuel up at one of many unique eateries.



Queen St. W.



Kensington Market

MAJOR LABELS

Ryan Michael Cheung knows his malls



Toronto Eaton Centre



Yorkdale Mall



Vaughan Mills



Shops at Don Mills

Being a man among many women working in the editorial department at *FLARE* magazine has its share of pressures, but assistant digital editor **Ryan Michael Cheung** tackles the challenge head-on with his classic preppy-inflected style. "I have a healthy wardrobe of basic button-ups and khakis that keep me in line nine to five, while denim is my other mainstay," he says. "I swear by Levi 511 skinnies."

Cheung's advice for men? Create your own uniform. Stick with consistent brands so you know you can always go back for more of what you love. He recommends the Queen Street West fashion district for its menswear selection. Try homegrown label **Club Monaco** (clubmonaco.com), which was once owned by **Joe Fresh** (joefresh.com) heavyweight Joe Mimran. "Its Queen Street West location offers a boutique feel but still carries the brand's full collection without feeling overwhelming. A definite shopping stop on a Saturday," says Cheung.

A few blocks west sits **Nomad** (nomadshop.net), one of Cheung's favourite spots to shop, which offers such street-wear labels as Wings + Horn, A.P.C and S.N.S Herring. "Its selection appeals to a broad range of tastes," he says. For awesome kicks, visit **Getoutside** (getoutsideshoes.com) on the corner of Queen and Spadina Avenue. Here, men of style find an infinite number of Vans, Converse and ever-appropriate Sperry, but also shoes from Bass, Clarks and Red Wings for those not-so-casual days.

From downtown to midtown and beyond, Cheung makes regular pilgrimages to J.Crew in **Yorkdale** mall (yorkdale.com); the brand's chambray shirts are "on heavy rotation" in his wardrobe.

For visitors and locals alike, Cheung says **Roots** (canada.roots.com) is mandatory shopping. Visit the Eaton Centre mall location across from Yonge-Dundas Square. "Roots is the master of leather and continues to be everyone's go-to for something luxe and truly Canadian," he says. Look for wallets, bags and the much-coveted jackets—all worthy trophies of any Toronto visit.

MAY WE SUGGEST...

Top get-in-and-get-it-done shopping hotspots include downtown's **Eaton Centre** (torontoeatoncentre.com), **Yorkdale** (yorkdale.com), Mississauga's **Square One** (shopsquareone.com), Brampton's **Bramalea City Centre** (bramaleacitycentre.ca), **Vaughan Mills** (vaughanmills.com) for outlet shopping and **Shops at Don Mills** (shopsatdonmills.ca) for a unique outdoor-mall experience.

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