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June 19, 2007

Taking a holiday (in my mind, at least)



*Bathing beauty: A look from Milly's cabana collection.*

By [Nandita Khanna](#)

Every time I tell someone I work at a travel magazine inevitably first question is always, "Oh wow, do you get to travel all the time?" Forgive me for quashing any dreams, but unfortunately it's not all travel, all the time, as one is (understandbly) be led to believe.

Don't get me wrong, I've had the chance to go to far-flung places like Hoi An, Vietnam to work on a fashion shoot and I've taken a jaunt down to [St. Lucia](#) to check out new [hotels](#) for our [Hot List](#). But I have plenty to do each and every day that keeps my feet firmly planted here at 4 Times Square. And to think, we have a coterie of brilliant contributing editors who've made traveling on the magazine's dime their livelihood. It's certainly enviable. I'm quickly realizing I have much to learn about this business. Last Tuesday night I headed downtown to preview Milly's resort collection with my friend [Jessica Flint](#) in tow. Jess has never been to a fashion show, so I thought I'd ease her into the veritable mayhem that is attending fashion shows but taking her to a fete for the resort collection. I told Jess that while I might not be able to actually plan a vacation to a warm locale at this very moment to put these pieces to good use, we can pretend we are--for the duration of the 8-minute fashion show.

[Milly](#) is one of those great lines that immediately conjures up splashy trips to the [Mexican Riviera](#), or a tootling aboard a yacht in [Capri](#). The clothes have a distinctly retro vibe but with a modern approach. The prints are splashy, but never over-the-top and come in the form of shift dresses and trapeze-style coats.

This season was no different for Milly, whose "cabana" collection was inspired by Punta Mita in Mexico. Punta Mita is located north of Puerto Vallarta and is blessed with miles of sandy shore line and Milly's inspiration was clear in this collection: loads of flowy caftans, breezy crochet halter dresses, bold flower strewn beach towels, roomy graphic carryalls, and of course, the ultimate in sun-shielding accessory--a pair of oversized sunglasses (white, preferably).

The models that sauntered down the runway had long, thin silk scarves chically wrapped around their heads too. Not sure everyone in Punta Mita would look so effortless, but we can try. Each look was paired with gold strappy flat sandals, which are equally transitional (perfect for perching poolside and will take you to an alfresco dinner too).

Milly isn't alone in hosting their own resort show either. Designers showing (on a much larger scale in than in the past) resort collections to buyers and editors is part of a larger trend that's largely due to the fact that of all the collections shown throughout the year resort wear is both the most commercial and stays in stores the longest.

Some designers, like Max Azria for [BCBG](#), [Carolina Herrera](#), [Valentino](#) and [M. Missoni](#) gave small showroom presentations for their resort collections which included simple pairings and long, flowy dresses and skirts. [Anya Hindmarch](#) showed a whole slew of metallic accessories, tiny clutches, and even some bejeweled sandals perfect for a quick getaway. Even [Tory Burch](#) looked to the [Tahitian islands](#) for some inspiration whipping up floral tunics and sequined frocks. Others, like Karl Lagerfeld at [Chanel](#) created quite a stir in May when he transformed a Santa Monica hangar into a chichi airport lounge complete with cocktail bars, personalized flight bags on each seat and even a departure screen noting the "Chanel Line" flights. [Models](#) poured out the customized Chanel jets sporting cheeky riffs on the aviation get-up (jumpsuits, clusters of airplane-shaped brooches) but with a decidedly sophisticated flair. And while sequin dressing gowns may be more "practical" for the real jet-set (Victoria Beckham was a fan reportedly) I'll just sit back and enjoy the view--for now.

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