



PHOTOGRAPH: XXX

THE

There's far more to the Fragrant

ULTIMATE

Harbour's shopping scene than chain

HONG KONG

stores and malls. **Rachel Read** has the intel

SHOPPING

on what you shouldn't miss

GUIDE



**WOO PING OPTICAL** In a city where shops can disappear overnight, lasting over 40 years marks you out as a Hong Kong legend. Woo Ping Optical is an iconic 'mom and pop' shop specialising in a gloriously eclectic selection of vintage Japanese glasses and frames, which have become cool all over again. (00852 2571 7810)

**JOYCE** The multibrand boutique with an avant-garde edge celebrates established yet innovative international labels and scouts up-and-coming designer talent. Expect cutting-edge cool from the likes of Alexander Wang, Mary Katrantzou and Vetements. ([www.joyce.com](http://www.joyce.com))

**SINDART** Established in 1958 and now run by Miru Wong, the granddaughter of Sindart's founder, the store makes beautiful Chinese embroidered slippers in vibrant colours. Their intricate details make them almost too pretty to wear. Almost. (00852 6623 3015)

**THE ARMOURY** If Ascot Chang represents the best of the city's tailoring heritage, then The Armoury is what happens when you bring it firmly into the 21st century. This upscale haberdashery specialises in luxury menswear, tailored suits and accessories for the discerning gent. ([www.thearmoury.com](http://www.thearmoury.com))

## JEWELLERY

**THE9THMUSE** Remember playing dress-up with your best friend's jewellery box? The9thMuse is basically a grown-up version of that. With the ambience of a stylish sitting room, this boutique boasts a bewitching array of small-label and vintage jewellery and accessories, including the founders' in-house line. Think body chains, ear cuffs, stacking rings and dainty pendants. ([www.the9thmuse.com](http://www.the9thmuse.com))

**JADE MARKET** Don't be put off by the fact that it's a 'market'; this is the place to find jade, pearls, semi-precious stones and traditional jewellery. Bangles, rings, pendants, earrings—they're all here. Vendors will help you find your good luck charm based on your Chinese zodiac sign—and don't be afraid to haggle. (*Kansu Street, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon*)

## FASHION

**SHANGHAI TANG** A home-grown luxury success story, Shanghai Tang's blend of 1920s Chinese fashion with a contemporary twist is always on point, be it a chic qipao-style dress, a mandarin-collared suit or a jewel-toned scarf. ([www.shanghaitang.com](http://www.shanghaitang.com))

**LINVA TAILOR** If you've longed for the gorgeous qipaos worn by Maggie Cheung in Wong Kar-Wai's classic film *In The Mood For Love*, head to this shop that boasts over 50 years of tailoring expertise. Alter the ready-made garments or go for a bespoke number of your choice. (G/F 38, *Cochrane St Central*)

**ASCOT CHANG** The city is famous for its 24-hour tailor-made suits, but why rush perfection? Master tailor Ascot Chang opened his first store here in 1953 and his legacy lives on with his brand's made-to-measure suits. Hand-finished pockets, buttonholes and lapels prove that the devil's in the details. ([www.ascotchchang.com](http://www.ascotchchang.com))

**MELISSA BUI** The London College of Fashion graduate's dreamy couture creations are straight out of a fairy tale—romantic, ultra-feminine and rich with delicate embellishments. Make an appointment at her Sheung Wan showroom and discover your inner princess. ([www.melissabui.com](http://www.melissabui.com))

**S. NINE** Contemporary, elegant and sleek, local designer Susanna Soo's creations are winners for the modern woman. Mixing 'New York style with French couture details', this Parsons School of Design alumnus offers both a ready-to-wear line and bespoke evening wear that's ideal for weddings, the red carpet or just because. ([www.snineonline.com](http://www.snineonline.com))

**BLKSHEEP EMPIRE** Local designer Jennifer Webb's quirky collection of Oxfords, flats and sneakers dare to be different, with funky prints and vivid colours. ([www.blksheempempire.com](http://www.blksheempempire.com))

**THE FITTING ROOM BY GRANA** Grana's been making waves for offering beautiful basics at disruptive prices, and The Fitting Room effortlessly blends the best of both physical and online retail therapy. Try on samples of a Chinese silk shirt, a Mongolian cashmere sweater or Japanese denim jeans, then order your own via in-store computers. ([www.grana.com](http://www.grana.com))

**LIII LIII** Getting custom-made shoes in Hong Kong is on every shopaholic's list, and thanks to LIII LIII, you're guaranteed the perfect pair. The Chan brothers' store resembles Aladdin's cave of treasures, albeit with shoes piled high in every direction, and they can create or copy any design you desire. (00852 2865 3989)

Above from left: **Tailor Ng inspects a canvas chest piece to be sewn into a suit; products at Sindart.** Previous pages from left: **Model Wu Ting Ting on a street in Hong Kong; the entrance to an Ascot Chang store**

# ASIA

**NIIN** Eco-fashion has come a long way, and niin is dazzling proof. This ethical jewellery line by local designer Jeanine Hsu has a focus on sustainable practices and recycled materials. ([www.niinstyle.com](http://www.niinstyle.com))

**MARIJOLI** Its tag line is 'unique spirited jewellery' and one look at Hong Kong-based designer Marielle Byworth's pieces will help you understand why. Handcrafted from precious materials like 18k gold and diamonds, these contemporary-chic creations feel both classic and cutting-edge. ([www.marijoli.com](http://www.marijoli.com))

## HOME DÉCOR

**G.O.D.** The name stands for 'Goods Of Desire' and once you explore this quintessentially Hong Kong range of home accessories, you'll realise just how apt the name is. The expansive collection stays just the right side of kitsch, with original designs that celebrate the city's culture. Fairy lights inspired by wet market lamps and candles created using the Chinese characters for 'Double Happiness' are some of the most popular finds. ([www.god.com.hk](http://www.god.com.hk))

**CAT STREET MARKET** This charming alley is home to a raft of stalls selling knick-knacks and curios—some genuine antiques, some modern-day reproductions—with bronze Buddhas, painted snuff bottles, Bruce Lee posters and Mao memorabilia all jostling for your attention. Bargaining is your friend. ([www.cat-street.hk](http://www.cat-street.hk))

**LALA CURIO** Reviving ancient Asian artisanship with a modern, whimsical twist, Lala Curio's home furnishings are bold, bright and beautiful. We love the detailed chinoiserie wallpaper and colourful patterned cloisonné tiles. ([www.lalacurio.com](http://www.lalacurio.com))

**LOVERAMICS** Coffee cups in pop colours and nifty cooking tools—this is the stuff modern kitchens are made of. The Willow Love Story collection, a beautiful reinterpretation of traditional blue-and-white porcelain, is bound to get you double taps aplenty on Instagram. ([www.loveramics.com](http://www.loveramics.com))

**MIRTH** Set in a former factory, this playful store offers a fabulous range of furniture, home accessories and art. This is Technicolor home décor



Above from left: a box from Lala Curio's collection for Bergdorf Goodman; a store selling jade jewellery in Sheung Wan

with a detour via Alice's Wonderland—think watermelon-patterned plates, bunny-print cushions and even a wall-hanging papier-mâché unicorn head. ([www.mirthhome.com](http://www.mirthhome.com))

**THORN AND BURROW** The founder of this quirky boutique has a great eye for handmade and independently designed wares. Her Moroccan rugs, African juju hat wall hangings and Vietnamese seagrass storage baskets are at the top of our wish list. ([www.thornandburrow.com](http://www.thornandburrow.com))

## BEAUTY

**BATHE TO BASICS** The handmade organic skin, body and haircare products boast all-natural ingredients and elegant packaging. Check out the heavenly olive oil and honey soap. ([www.bathetobasics.com](http://www.bathetobasics.com))

**LE LABO** The French-NYC fragrance brand's industrial-chic boutique feels worlds away from the mass-market experience. The collection currently comprises 15 unusual unisex scents; pick your favourites and they'll be hand-blended in the store. ([www.llelabofragrances.com](http://www.llelabofragrances.com))

**PARFUMERIE TRESOR** The boutique perfume store stocks only indie and niche brands. Its relaxed boudoir ambience lets you sample to your heart's content until you find your match. ([www.parfumerietresor.com](http://www.parfumerietresor.com))

**10/10 HOPE** The green living movement has hit the beauty scene hard and 10/10 Hope is riding the crest of that wave. It cherry-picks the best organic and natural skincare brands from around the world, including Neal Yard Remedies, Grown Alchemist and Christopher Robin, and brings them all under one roof. ([www.hk.1010hope.com](http://www.hk.1010hope.com))

## CONCEPT STORES

**CAELUM GREENE** If you were wondering whether the athleisure trend has hit the city, look no further. Eye-catching activewear, eco-friendly fashion, organic beauty brands and even a twinkling garden mean there's something for everyone. ([www.caelumgreene.com](http://www.caelumgreene.com))

**HKTDC DESIGN GALLERY** Established by the city's Trade Development Council, this is a great one-stop shop for original, creative products by local brands and designers. Bluetooth speakers, cuddly toys, art prints, silk scarves, novelty key rings—there's something to suit just about every taste and budget. ([hkdesigngallery.hktdc.com](http://hkdesigngallery.hktdc.com))

**PIMARY** As concept stores in Hong Kong go, they don't make them better than this. Located in a two-storey vintage house (complete with herb garden and rooftop), this →



tranquil treasure trove sells artisanal homeware and natural beauty products that are every bit as lovely as the space they're set in. ([www.pimaryhk.com](http://www.pimaryhk.com))

**KAPOK** The phrase 'well curated' sounds clichéd when you talk about independent boutiques, but Kapok really is that. The Hong Kong-based founder, Arnault Castel, has a brilliant eye for non-mainstream labels that forms Kapok's aesthetic—classic, clean, contemporary, cool—with highly covetable clothes, accessories, stationery and homeware available. ([www.ka-pok.com](http://www.ka-pok.com))

**SELECT 18** This magpie's nest of eye-catching jewellery, accessories, furniture and other knick-knacks is a gift that keeps on giving. Tucked at the back of the store is Mido Eyeglasses, another vault of vintage delights, selling—you guessed it—retro spectacles and sunglasses. (00852 2549 2589)

**MAN LUEN CHOON** Hidden away in a nondescript office building in Central, Man Luen Choon has been selling traditional Chinese art and calligraphy supplies for more than 50 years. Gazing over the range of handmade paper, bamboo handle brushes and rainbow of ink hues is a surprisingly calming experience. ([www.manluenchoon.com](http://www.manluenchoon.com))

Above from left:  
**Arnault Castel, the founder of Kapok; the café at Kubrick**



**WOAW** WOAW won't be winning any awards for modesty—its name stands for World of Amazing Wonders—but with such a distinctively diverse product range, you'll understand why. Curated by local influencer Kevin Poon, its hipper-than-thou selections include funky tech gadgets, tongue-in-cheek stationery and street-smart fashion. ([www.woawstore.com](http://www.woawstore.com))

## BOOKS

**KUBRICK** A much loved indie hangout among Hong Kong's creative crowd, Kubrick is located next to the city's most popular arthouse cinema. With a strong collection of literature about movies, photography and the arts, this light, airy space has an artsy ambience. A pleasant in-store café means you can happily linger here the whole day. ([www.kubrick.com.hk](http://www.kubrick.com.hk))

**LOK MAN RARE BOOKS** The impressive range of first editions, rare and signed works and important folios cover every subject under the sun. This is the plush private library of your dreams, complete with velvet armchairs. ([www.lokmanbooks.com](http://www.lokmanbooks.com))

**BOOKS & CO.** This cosy shop is piled high with books in every direction, with coffee and cake for company. There's nowhere nicer to get lost in a good book in Hong Kong. (00852 2559 5199)

**ESLITE** This is a bookshop that is about so much more than just books (although there are plenty of those, too). You can spend countless hours exploring the store's treasures, which include everything from quirky-cute stationery to artisanal food items. If you ever wondered where to find bubble tea, cat print washi tape and Japanese fashion magazines all under the same roof, wonder no more. ([www.eslite.com](http://www.eslite.com))

## FOOD

**TEAKHA KITCHEN** This soulfully serene café specialises in tea with a side of slow living. In addition to serving the best masala chai and hojicha cheesecake in town, it sells its own line of high-quality Plantation tea alongside a range of rustic tea ware. ([www.teakha.com](http://www.teakha.com))

**YUAN HENG SPICE CO.** Having spent over a century in business, this store knows a thing or two about the spice game, with huge sacks of cinnamon bark, Sichuan peppercorns, dried mandarin peel and more seasonings than you ever knew existed stuffed into the Sheung Wan store. Wholesale supplier to the city's top restaurants, Yuan Heng is happy to sell smaller quantities—and at reasonable prices, too. ([www.yuanhengspice.com](http://www.yuanhengspice.com))

**GREEN COMMON** A streamlined design and expansive item selection sets Green Common apart from other eco stores. Green-conscious shoppers will be delighted with the 100 percent plant-based produce (vegan cheese, who knew?) and the Nan Fung Place store is twinned with a vegetarian café—ideal for a relaxing bite after all that intense retail therapy. ([www.greencommon.com](http://www.greencommon.com))

**MRS SO'S XO SAUCE** For an authentic taste of Hong Kong, try Mrs So's XO sauce, an award-winning umami-rich condiment that consists of dried scallop, shrimp roe and chilli, handmade in the brand's factory located in Tuen Mun. The store sells Mrs So's entire, bewildering range of sauces, in addition to other traditional seasonal Chinese delicacies; there's even a cooking demo area where you can try before you buy. ([www.xo-sauce.com.hk](http://www.xo-sauce.com.hk))