

NEWPORT ORANGE COUNTY

It's nautical with a twist, as we take to the sun, sand and sails of California - the golden state. Nautical staples such as navy, white and red are accented by this season's brightest of brights.
By Dan Ahwa

All American sportswear at sea is highlighted for Spring 2011, and while American designers such as Tommy Hilfiger, Michael Kors and Ralph Lauren have consistently managed to capture the romanticism of maritime activities through their designs over the years, a new take on the theme has been revisited with cleaner silhouettes and a colour palette that packs more punch.

Casual luxe fabrics are complemented by traditional nautical colours of red, white and navy with a hit of sunburst orange and yellow. Sailing regalia such as flags and early Nautica campaigns also highlight these key tones, finding inspiration in the seaside pastimes of more affluent areas such as Newport, Orange County in California.

The sun seems to shine a lot brighter in Orange County, giving a different shade of light to reds and yellows making them appear warmer in tone and deeper in saturation - the perfect accompaniment to their cooler counterparts of crisp whites and cobalt blues.

Francisco Costa's Spring 2011 collection for Calvin Klein highlighted the designer's strength in minimalistic design re-enforced by orange and blue; while Raf Simons' collection for Jil Sander reworked traditional nautical stripes in navy and white amidst a collection of bright block colours that were eye popping and wearable.

Taking swimwear and wetsuits into the realm of ready-to-wear, Miuccia Prada's box shaped neoprene pieces serve double duty as being waterproof and chic; and Ohne Titel's knit dresses in navy highlights the traditional colour as a lighter alternative to black. Sporty, carefree and accessorised with strappy sandals, these Orange County inspired colours work well on easy shift dresses and languid resort inspired pieces, evoking the spirit and nature of that classic, sun kissed Californian girl.



ohne titel

RESENE BUNTING

You can't have nautical without the colour navy, and for a classic tone look to Resene Bunting for that tried and true shade of blue. Resene Bunting is a deep navy school blazer blue that goes even deeper than classic navy. Designer duo Flora Gill and Alexa Adams of New York based label Ohne Titel utilised a Resene Bunting shade for their Spring 2011 collection of contemporary sportswear.



calvin klein

RESENE DAREDEVIL

Bright, bold and in your face, Resene Daredevil is not for the shrinking violet. A fluorescent orange not to be ignored, designers such as Francisco Costa for Calvin Klein and Donatella Versace utilised a Resene Daredevil tone, giving their collections a youthful and sunny disposition. When this colour hits the light, make sure you have your sunglasses nearby.



karen walker

RESENE STARBELL

Colour packed a punch at Karen Walker's New York runway presentation as coquettish looking models presented a collection of preppy sportswear and full skirt dresses, including this carefree number in a Resene Starbell tone offset with a grey marl top half.



lanvin

RESENE PURSUIT

Nautical red just got hotter with another key colour for Spring 2011, Resene Pursuit, a racy and combustible orange. Alber Elbaz's typically chic and dramatic handwriting for Lanvin was seen once again with a full length dress in a Resene Pursuit tone, combining orange and hot red to full effect.



jil sander

RESENE RESOLUTION BLUE

Jil Sander creative director Raf Simons took bold steps with his colour choices for both menswear and womenswear Spring 2011 collections. A Resene Resolution Blue tone brought new life to classic nautical stripes, and amidst his clever colour blocking, this voluminous blue and white striped dress was a standout. Resene Resolution Blue is a bright bold blue, full of determination and endeavour.



prada

RESENE ELVIS

A Memphis mid blue, bold, brash and full of action packed energy as epitomised at Prada. Miuccia Prada's take on brights this season highlighted her measured sense of freedom and fun, making the most of cobalt blues paired with fluorescent orange.



michael kors

RESENE SWITCHED ON

An acid bright yellow, razor sharp and severe, this yellow is sure to turn heads over summer. This key colour was seen everywhere during the Spring 2011 season from Jil Sander to Max Mara, but leave it to veteran designer Michael Kors who kept the colour chic and simple on a easy to wear tunic dress.

- 1) Resene Bunting
- 2) Resene Daredevil
- 3) Resene Starbell
- 4) Resene Pursuit
- 5) Resene Resolution Blue
- 6) Resene Elvis
- 7) Resene Switched On

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