

Christine's Wardrobe Checklist

Compiled from lists by Tim Gunn, Nina Garcia, Stacy London & Clinton Kelly

ESSENTIAL CLOTHING

- Black Pantsuit**—This can also be your black dress pants & fitted jacket.
- Little Black Dress**
- Trench Coat**—I say this should work in the rain because nothing else on the list does.
- Classic Cotton Button-Down**—One men's white, 2 fitted, with colors and/or stripes. Best no-iron is at Brooks Brothers.
- Jeans**—3 pairs—one dark narrow-leg hemmed for heels in the evening, one medium-wash hemmed for weekend flats & sneakers, and one dark wash trouser-leg for work, hemmed for work heels.
- Day Dresses**—Solid-color dress (maybe Little White Dress or A-line dress) and Print or embellished dress (maybe DVF wrap dress or Pucci).
- Blouses/Any-Occasion-Tops**—3 of something you look great in that can look respectable under a jacket but bring on the fun after hours.
- Skirts**—at least one Pencil, S&C say you need three for each season and at least 1 tweed in each season.
- Neutral Trousers**—at least 1 brown, 1 gray, at least one pair wide-leg.
- Sweaters**—3 neutral, 3 color—cable-knit, plain cashmere, boyfriend cardigan, zip hoodie, crewneck & v-necks (all cashmere if you can manage it or a Missoni, which you will keep forever and will always be appropriate no matter how old you are)
- Blazers**—S&C say you need three: 1 summer-weight, 1 three-season weight, 1 winter weight, Tim lists it as an essential, and Nina recommends a Tuxedo Jacket, a Safari Jacket, and a pea-coat, and while she likes the original pea-coat, I wear it most as a cropped fitted work jacket.
- Leather Jacket**—NG suggests Motorcycle Jacket. Could also be one of your blazers.
- Sweatsuit Alternative**—Khakis, Denim Jacket, Concert T-shirt, Plain White Tee, Polo Shirt, or Striped Sailor Shirt are all good, classic options. I would also add sundress, though no one mentioned it.
- Lingerie/Underwear**—everyone agrees that you must have well-fitted bras (including a push-up), and that these can only really be gotten at a specialty boutique, such as Alla Prima in SF. Additionally, you need either thongs, boy-shorts, or invisible panties. Nina, brilliantly adds Spanx, which are a MUST with all the skinny jeans these days, as well as black opaque tights for making dresses look more work-appropriate & nude fishnets for making them a little sexier.
- ¾-Length Wool Coat**—Nina recommends camel, real camel, and I agree. Wear your trench until you can afford to buy one you love.
- Neutral suit**—pants or skirt—only S&C recommend this, but you're already buying skirts and blazers, so it can't hurt to buy some together
- 2 sparkly tops**—Only S&C mention this, but I love them and think they look great with Tuxedo pants for a comfy evening out.
- Cocktail Dress**—knee-length, or close to (this wasn't on anyone's list, but I think it's essential—it's in each chapter of S&C's book, and Tim always gets one for the girls on his show).

SHOES & BAGS

- Cosmetics Bag**—filled with all the right cosmetics for you to get touched up on the go (inc. red lipstick, perfume, and nail polish—red & pale pink).
- Umbrella**—I'm putting this here because it should be in your purse Oct.-April to protect your investment.
- Black Bag**—Best option for an “Investment Bag” because it goes with everything (NG recommends the Gucci “Bouvier” as a classic, and it also fulfills the category of hobo bag).
- Brown Bag**—If you want a second, less expensive “Investment Bag,” Nina recommends the Louis Vuitton Speedy 30, which is a satchel for a different style (though it doesn't fit over your shoulder). Otherwise, this could be a good color for your exotic skin bag.
- Color or Print Bag**—NG recommends a color, croc, over-sized clutch (by Nancy Gonzalez) that can do double-duty.
- Clutch**—NG says you always need at least silver and gold, though these don't have to be pieces you invest a lot in, and are great to pick up on travels. She also points out that there should be mad money in your clutches that you forget about, just in case you're out and need to catch a cab home unexpectedly.
- Black Heels**—try Mary Janes.
- Brown heels**—NG says whenever buying heels to invest in Manolo, Jimmy Choo or Louboutin stilettos.
- Color or Print Embellished Heels**—NG might recommend an animal print.
- Black Boots**—Every woman needs ankle booties, and I like them better in black for going under pants and with dresses.
- Brown Boots**—I say knee boots here because I like the riding boot look and they are great with skirts.
- Black Flats**—NG recommends ballet flats.
- Sweatsuit Alternative Shoes**—NG recommends Cons, Vans, Driving Shoes, or Minnetonka Moccasins.

JEWELRY

- Watch**—S&C say it should have two bands (leather and link) & NG says to invest in a nice one. I'm getting mine at Target until I fall in love with something.
- Sunglasses**—Aviators & Wayfarers, says NG (one with gold trim, the other with silver for wearing with different bags and sets of jewelry, says I).
- Bracelets**—Bangles, Cuff, Charm (though charm bracelets aren't common in our age group, I love the idea of a personalized piece of jewelry built over time. When my grandmother passed away, one of the things my mom prized most were her charm bracelets).
- Necklaces**—Pearls, Statement (in gold and silver, says I), Turquoise &/or Coral
- Brooches**—for decorating, pinning, and tailoring
- Belts**—you at least need a reversible black and brown or one of each, and I would say a stylish belt for wearing over sweaters and dresses. Belts should be in proportion to your size (or purposefully disproportionate as the focal point of your outfit).
- Earrings**—Diamond studs & skinny hoops (hoops in metals that match the hardware on your bags—matching metals isn't a must, but it's an easy way to look polished).

- Rings**—Cocktail & Signet. A cocktail ring is the perfect accessory for your cocktail dress because you don't need anything else but your diamond studs. A signet ring is classic and personalized (a great gift for a bride who is changing her name).
- Silk Scarf**—This is basically jewelry, and Hermes has a great pdf of how to tie them called "Playtime With Your Scarf" on their website. You can shell out \$300 for a fancy one, or pick them up for \$25 on your travels. Look at the Ferragamo and Hermes ones before buying the cheaper ones so you know what to look for.
- Jewelry Pouches**—For keeping all your jewelry. These are lovely and cheap in Chinatown.

SUMMER

- Bikini & One-piece swimsuits**—NG loves Eres
- Sarong**
- Sunhat**
- Espadrilles**
- Sandals**—Gladiator are always good
- Flip-Flops**—NG likes Havaianas, but I like Rainbo's
- L.L. Bean Tote**

NINA GARCIA ALSO RECCOMENDS

- Pajamas, Robe, & Slippers**—I say silk or satin, though you could also do cotton or flannel.
- Caftan**
- Cape**
- Cowboy Boots**
- Fry Boots**
- Wellington Boots**
- Evening Gown**—she makes a good point that no one ever has one until the invitation comes and then they have to find one, and it's a miserable process. After New Year's Bloomingdale's always has a giant sale, and it is a fun girl's day to go trying on the evening gowns.
- Fur**—I have plenty, so ladies, if you would ever like to borrow some, let me know.
- Fedora or Trilby**—Yes! Yes! Yes!
- Gloves**
- Leather Pants**
- Pea Coat**
- Yoga Gear**
- Vintage Pieces**

LIFESTYLE PIECES

- BlackBerry & iPod**—I say iPhone
- Luggage**
- Monogrammed Stationery**—My favorite is Crane's.
- Quality Champagne**—all my friends enjoy Gloria Ferrar.
- Valid Passport**