

the best new cities to shop

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The once-staid shopping scenes in Nashville, Washington, D.C., and Minneapolis have undergone serious transformations. Here, the next generation of boutiques in these budding style capitals. **BY GIGI GUERRA**



The home of country music is finally shedding its rhinestone cowgirl reputation—citified shops with on-the-cusp labels have been opening left and right

ranging from Wilco to Nada Surf. 128½ N. Church St., Murfreesboro, 615-890-3221

The Grove Boutique Situated in an ironbalconied brick townhouse, this boutique has a romantic Southern charm. It offers up the kind of feminine garments that would work well for both backyard barbecues and cocktail parties—from names including

H. Audrey Country musician Holly Williams (pictured right)—granddaughter of the legendary Hank—has made a wildly successful venture into retail with this brand-new, Belle Époque—influenced shop, stocked with streamlined, urban labels like Daryl K and Rick Owens. The Hill Center, 4027 Hillsboro Pike, Ste. 703, 615-760-5701

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is located in an old Methodist church that's survived both fire and tornado. The main attraction is an assortment of colorful, under-\$20 concert posters, all custom-designed and silk-screened on-site for bands Hemline Established a decade ago in New Orleans, this burgeoning chainlet has since spawned locations all across the South. Its newest and perhaps most alluring outpost is in Nashville, with double-height ceilings and dramatic black chandeliers. Look for affordable items with broad appeal, like Farylrobin kneehigh boots and Freedom of Choice sailor-style jeans. The Hill Center, 4025 Hillsboro Pike, Ste. 504, 615-298-9215, shophemline.com





Hud Luxe Tennessee native Hud Hudson grew up with retail in his blood-his mom, Jamie Stream, is the force behind celebrated Nashville boutique Jamie. In early 2006, Hud branched out with Hud Luxe, which is dedicated to high-end tees and denim, plus glam jewelry and Westerninfluenced accessories. The store's ranch-like interior is a nod to Hud's love for hunting and

is kitted out with mounted animal heads and cowhide rugs. 2203 Bandywood Dr., 615-298-7474

Local Honey Just off the emerging 12th Avenue shopping corridor is this esoteric shop, which sells a range of well-preserved vintage clothing plus choice pieces by regional designers. Owners Shea Steele and Amanda Valentine have a curator's eye when it comes to choosing merchandise; the pair regularly crisscross Appalachia in search of looks from the 1960s and '70s, like swingy

chain necklaces, classic riding boots, floral chiffon dresses, and chunky belt buckles. 1207 Linden Ave., 615-297-6977 The Perfect Pair When it came to naming their enterprise, Casev Stribling and Whitney Dunn (daughter of country star Ronnie Dunn) decided to reference both their longtime friendship and collective mission; offering on-trend footwear and bags that are adaptable to city or country. In doing so, the duo has created a boutique that perfectly distills the Nashville fashion scene—there's a mix of the traditional (Old Gringo cowboy boots) and the modern (Pedro Garcia satin flats, Costume National heels, Charlott Vasberg totes). 2209 Bandywood Dr., Ste. I, 615-385-7247 Posh The newest branch of the Nashville-area Posh minichain is its most inspired yet. Aimed at a more adventurous, deep-pocketed customer (the original location caters to a college crowd), the sleek spot brims with high-concept items like Carolina Amato elbow-length leather gloves and Elijah cobalt silk tie-back tunics. The Hill Center, 4027 Hillsboro Pike, Ste. 705, 615-269-6250 Two Elle Rachel Lowe took a break from Vanderbilt law school to open this impossibly cute shop and cheekily named the endeavor in honor of her decision (Two Elle is a riff on 2L, slang for a secondyear law student). The bungalow space, filled with Built by Wendy tops, sequined Chuck Taylors, and Karen Walker sunglasses, has

2309 12th Ave. S, 615-269-9954

a cheerful exuberance.



HOME TO COUNTRY STARS AND CELEBS, THIS MONEYED NASHVILLE SUBURB HAS A BATCH OF LITTLE-KNOWN BUT OUTSTANDING SHOPS.

With its robin's-egg-blue decor and robust stock of garments by Tracy Reese, Nanette Lepore, Graham & Spencer, and Mint Jodi Arnold, **Emmaline** (400 Main St., 615-791-6205) is a foolproof resource for effortlessly feminine attire. Longtime music video stylist Claudia Fowler transformed a 200-year-old downtown grocery store into **Haven** (343 Main St., 615-790-7954), a rustic, antique-strewn outpost of bohemian clothing and jewelry (look for pieces by Foley, Rozae Nichols, and Alexis Bittar). For sophisticated paper goods, spare, gallery-like **Rock Paper Scissors** (317 Main St., 615-791-0150, rockpaperscissor.com) delivers elegant notecards, invitations, and gift tags.





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