

# Summer Party Wear

Issue: 40

No one can deny that summertime is primetime for outdoor cookouts and picnics which calls for special wardrobe so that you can not only be sure to beat the heat but remain stylish while doing so. The first rule of thumb is to don breathable fabrics in light colors to avoid getting completely sun-drenched. Try things like linen, cotton, and jersey knits in pastel colors or fun and festive floral prints and of course don't forget your sunglasses to keep you officially shaded from the rays.

Women; mini skirts, shorts, and skorts (combination of a skirt and shorts) are great casual options and look terrific with sandals. If you want to elongate your gams stick with a wedge-style shoe so as not to sink into the grass while your enjoying your BBQ fete. If flats are more your thing go classic in a super cute ballet flat like shown here.

Dresses are wonderful, comfortable options and require less thinking since you don't have to match up top and bottom. Try this season's favorite look, the Maxi dress and pair with ethnic or other colorful jewelry for extra effect.

If you feel more yourself in trousers, try linen for a cooler change of pace. Go with a style that is wide leg and perhaps with a high waist and pair with a plain tank or a cool graphic tee. If you're blessed with height, pair your pants with some embellished flip flops and if more petite, go for the wedge sandal or sling back. You won't want to deal with cleaning the mud off your stilettos after you sink deep down.

Well, guys the same goes for you in the material category. You'll want to stick with easy breezy fabrics as well so you don't feel like your breaking a sweat the minute you get by the grill. Similar to the ladies, linen is the best option to keep you cool, just don't fret over the wrinkles that form the minute you sit down. Since it's summertime, I am a big fan of wearing white, so try a pair of white linen drawstring pants, paired with a simple brightly hued tee shirt. Since you're donning drawstring, you can skip the belt and just think about the shoes. Go for a simple driving moccasin or a basic flip flop sandal.

If you'd rather avoid pants altogether, shorts are certainly an option and are most festive when done in a subtle plaid or other pattern as opposed to keeping it simple and solid colored. Shorts should hit right at the knee if you're tall and an inch or two above the knee for those with shorter legs. Pair your shorts with a cool white belt, light pink cotton button down or polo-style shirt. If your shirt has long sleeves roll them up to the elbow.

Now that you know what to wear, you need an extra-special accessory to bring everything all together that also helps you remain incognito. Yes, that's right gentlemen, don't forget about the sunglasses. 1980's inspired frames are all the rage these days—so get a little crazy and try a white flat topped pair—or, if you'd rather play it a little safer (and I said a little) try a cool pair of Ray-Ban inspired glasses. If you're feeling extra frisky turn your back to black and instead try an in-your-face color like bright red. You can be certain you'll get noticed.

