

SPLASH INTO SUMMER

EMBRACE THESE SWIMWEAR TRENDS FOR CHIC LOOKS THIS SEASON.

BY ASHLEY RYAN



Wear the chic **PEARL HIGH-NECK ONE-PIECE SWIMSUIT** to lounge on the beach, take a dip in the pool or as a bodysuit paired with a skirt and sandals, \$158, at Tommy Bahama, Corona del Mar. (949-760-1886; tommybahama.com)

Hit the beach, pool or local bar in style this summer, making a statement both in and out of the water with versatile, high-quality swim pieces.

Andy Drakeford, a longtime Newport Beach resident and stylist who also works as one of South Coast Plaza's personal shoppers, relies on a "less is more" approach, which aligns expertly with current swimwear trends.

When asked what makes a good swimsuit, Drakeford says, "Hands down, fit and quality. You can have the most perfect figure, but if that bikini is riding up or sliding around, then forget it. ... It's important that the suit holds its shape, doesn't hold on to moisture for too long and flattens the person's body shape and age."

This summer, she recommends staying on trend by turning to retro, coquettish ruffles or gold hardware for "a bit of glam." As far as color goes, prints are still popular, but monochromatic suits are having a moment and are equally as appealing in 2024. And, for fit, she says comfort over style is in, with high-waisted bikini bottoms and one-piece suits flying off the shelves.

"I totally appreciate self-love and body inclusivity, but ask yourself if you feel good in it," Drakeford adds. "... Look in the mirror from all angles." Some of her go-to brands include Andie, Solid & Striped, Malia Mills, Une Piece and Karla Colletto.

But don't be afraid to pair your pieces with other fashionable items. For covering up, Drakeford suggests cut-off shorts, drawstring pants,

tunics, sundresses and—if you're not a fan of your legs—longer options such as gauzy or linen pants and maxi skirts or dresses.

Beyond that, bucket hats continue to be on-trend while headwear with a large brim can be ideal for sun protection. When choosing shoes, Drakeford says to keep it flat with sandals, preferably those with a rubber sole—like Havaianas or a style from Gucci—when walking around wet surfaces. Simple jewelry with a pop of coral or turquoise color can be great for the season while raffia bags are great whether it's a tote to carry your towel to the beach or a small evening bag for going out afterward.

"[Newport is] a great city for swimwear for several reasons," Drakeford says. "The most obvious is all the amazing miles and miles of beaches—not to mention that a huge percentage of homes have swimming pools."

But swim textiles don't have to be exclusive to the water anymore, she adds. "Some of the top luxury brands have swimwear pieces in their spring/summer ready-to-wear collections," Drakeford reveals, recommending a light blazer or open shirt layered over a bikini top with shorts or linen trousers. Alternatively, she says, wear one-piece swimwear as a bodysuit with a skirt, flat sandals and jewelry.

"When we wear swimsuits ... is when we are most exposed, yet also our most relaxed selves. Beach, pool, ... vacation—it's critical that you feel confident, comfortable and relaxed," Drakeford continues. You really can't go wrong in this breezy beach town.

COURTESY OF TOMMY BAHAMA

SEAWORTHY WARES

STYLISH SWIM PIECES AROUND IN COASTAL NEWPORT.

1) Those looking to be more active in the water while still looking stylish can turn to the pastel **OMBRE SURFSUIT**, which fades from a pretty pink to a baby blue and offers SPF 30+ in addition to long sleeves for maximum sun protection, \$215, at Cynthia Rowley, Lido Marina Village. (949-220-4810; cynthiarowley.com)

2) With a Boardwalk print that screams summertime, Vix Paula Hermann's new **AUDREY TRI TOP**, \$128, paired with the **TIE SIDE BOTTOM**, \$102, creates a chic silhouette so you can flaunt what you've got at the beach, by the pool and beyond, at Allegra, The Shops at Pelican Hill. (888-299-4760; pelicanhill.com/shops)

3) Accented with trending gold hardware, the **LEILA HALTER ONE PIECE SWIMSUIT** from L'Agence offers a shirred bodice for moderate coverage and a Champagne-hued sheen that is sure to turn heads whether worn by the water or out on the town, \$275, at Everything But Water, South Coast Plaza. (714-540-8523; everythingbutwater.com)

4) One of stylist Andy Drakeford's favorite swimwear brands, Andie, presents a comfortable yet fashionable look with the monochromatic **MYKONOS PLUNGE ONE-PIECE SWIMSUIT**, featuring wide straps for support, a stylish plunging neckline and six different color options, \$112, with advance order at Nordstrom, Fashion Island. (949-610-0700; nordstrom.com)

5) Opt for a more traditional bikini, like the **ROSSI HALTER UNDERWIRE TOP**, \$125, paired with the **URSULA HIPSTER BOTTOM**, \$120, crafted with a SuperRib fabric made from recycled nylon by sustainable brand Vitamin A, which is based in neighboring Laguna Beach, available online at Vitamin A. (877-836-4610; vitaminaswim.com)

6) The **MERLY TWO-PIECE ASYMMETRIC BIKINI SET** by Maygel Coronel features the best of both worlds: high-waisted bottoms for comfort paired with a ruffled top with a bow in the back to keep you on-trend this summer, \$360, at Neiman Marcus, Fashion Island. (949-759-1900; neimanmarcus.com) **NBM**

