

SARI, SARI NIGHTS

Bling, bold and beautiful – here is Penny Fray’s sartorial guide to saris.

The Indian equivalent of the little black dress – the sari remains the most versatile garment in any stylish girl’s wardrobe. The traditional six-yard sari allows for generous draping and an excuse to embrace this season’s embellishment in an extravagant way.

But you don’t have to be conventional – you can tailor saris into cocktail gowns, downplay them with jeans or simply turn them into trendy tunics. If you ask me, there’s no better way to stand out in a posh party than to wear a reconstructed sari with lashings of jewellery.

So, what’s hot right now? Well, according to Mrunal Khimji, owner of Mrunal’s Boutique in Qurum, Indian fashion is both influenced and influencing European trends.

“Bright colours like pink, blue and yellow are currently big as are embellishments and embroidery,” she says. “Bollywood stars are also highly persuasive and can easily make or break a designer. As such, popular fashion names now include Manish Malhotra and Sabyasachi.”

With more and more actresses making the most of their shapely figures in fitted dresses, the tendency for showing a bit more flesh has followed, especially among younger Indian women. “But the traditional sari is supposed to hide not show,” explains Mrunal.

Fashion, however, is no respecter of custom and Mrunal is often asked to create readymade saris as well as customise old ones. High-street stores like Monsoon and Accessorize are also packed with Asian-inspired tunics, dresses and bargain bling.



This stunning piece from Piaget drizzles with diamonds. Available from the Magic Garden collection at **Khimji’s Watches**.



If you just want a taste of India, try this Maharni Tunic, RO22, from **Monsoon**.

STYLISH SARIS

Penny’s tips on how to wear a sari

1 Learn how to drape a sari online. There are lots of easy to follow videos on YouTube. **2** If you’re a sari novice, choose a synthetic material that is easy to drape and wear. Otherwise, get a good tailor to create a ready-made one. **3** Draw attention away from bare arms by wearing lots of bangles. **4** Pale skins tend to suit darker saris and vice versa.

Bright orange is the colour of the season thanks to its designer influence and happy vibe. From **Mrunal’s Boutique** in Qurum.