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by Elyse Glickman

lily holt shoes & jewelry



LILY HOLT

Jewels at your Feet

Lily Holt, whose designs are South Beach-inspired and Argentine made, has an unusual background for a high-end shoe designer. The Palm Beach, FL native's collection has been around for four years, and has past professional credits including sports management, special events planning and venture capital endeavors. However, that being said, Holt (an heiress to the **Anheuser-Bush** fortune) knows her market, and further more, knows her designs will fly just as brilliantly—literally—in Hollywood, CA as they do in Hollywood, FL. What makes her collection special? Her shoes—from **kicky flats to flirty kitten heels to elaborate dress stilettos**—are adorned with **semi-precious stones**, including **turquoise, tiger-eye, coral, onyx, rose quartz** and **light jade**. Combine this fancy footwork with some one-of-a-kind jewelry pieces for neck, hands and wrist and you've got one very original concept.

"In conceiving a unique collection, I was looking into the various materials readily available in South America, and I realized semi-precious stones were plentiful because of excellent mining resources," says Holt. "Also, in Argentina, **everything is hand made and people take pride in craftsmanship**, especially with shoes and in jewelry-making. In my collection, each stone is set individually. I started out designing a ring and then after looking at the sandal (what became the popular Santa Fe flat), we realized the shape of the ring would make a fabulous adornment for the sandal. Every year, I design 60 to 80 one-of-a-kind necklaces, some of which have designs that lend themselves to a great shoe. Also, interestingly enough, Argentina (unlike Brazil) is not known for shoe manufacturing, but I happened to find a wonderful group of artisans and suppliers who have done a superb job bringing the collections to life."

Lily Holt shoes retail for **\$195-\$350+** and are ready to be admired via www.lilyholt.com and sold out west via **Antonia** (in Newport Beach), **Champagne** (Redondo Beach) and **Simply Soles** (www.simplysoles.com). Holt also enthusiastically discussed the addition of more California retailers and eventuality of her own namesake boutique opening at some point later this year.

This week **2 lucky readers** will win a pair of shoes from Lily Holt's collection.

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