

Rummaging with Olivia Palermo

The City star and budding style maven takes us shopping for affordable accessories. By **Cristina Velocci**



Contrary to her icy persona on MTV's reality series *The City* (season two premieres Tuesday 27 at 10:30pm), when Olivia Palermo arrives at Banana Republic, she's all smiles. The socialite has a soft spot for accessories—she recently partnered with Roberta Freymann to create a collection of beaded bib necklaces. While trying on the interwoven Eclipse necklace (\$50), her eyes wander to beaded Heritage bracelets (\$20) and she coos, "These are great for girlfriends to give to one another." She also tries on a pair of oversize shades (\$118). "I have a thing for the big Jackie Os," she says. "Every girl should own a pair."

Banana Republic
(111 Eighth Ave between 15th and 16th Sts; 212-645-1032, banana-republic.com)



Shopping



Palermo, a self-professed "huge vintage shopper," goes straight for a tray of sparkly baubles at Housing Works, isolating a metal-link collar necklace lined with rhinestones (\$22), a square pocket watch that she envisions wearing as a necklace (\$12), a rhinestone-strewn necklace (\$10) that she wraps around her wrist as a bracelet, and a chunky hardware-heavy bracelet (\$14). "When I have a replica of a vintage costume piece, I put it in the sun and let it age for a month, just to have it tarnish," she says. Palermo moves on from jewelry to rifle through a basket of scarves, digging out a gossamer black-and-white pocket square (\$4) and a vibrant lime-green-and-cayenne paisley shawl (\$6).



Housing Works
(143 W 17th St between Sixth and Seventh Aves; 212-366-0820, housingworks.org)

Zara (101 Fifth Ave at 17th St; 212-741-0555, zara.com)

"We're headed into dangerous territory for me now," Palermo jokes en route to the Spanish chain. She slips into a military-green cotton parka (\$90) and pairs it with a pale pink cashmere scarf (\$80). "I need to find a belt for this," she says, eventually locating the right finishing detail: a neutral beige-and-brown woven number (\$30). "What do you think?" she asks, holding up a slate blue bowler bag (\$90), which she ends up buying. Palermo is also drawn to a gray studded leather shoulder bag (\$80), though she opts to use it as a clutch instead, tucking the strap inside. Lastly, she slips out of her sky-high Charlotte Olympia heels to parade around in a pair of strappy nude suede wedges (\$99).



Pippin Vintage Jewelry
(112 W 17th St between Sixth and Seventh Aves; 212-505-5159, pippin-vintage.com)

"This would look really nice if you needed a slight detail on a dress or a shirt," she says, holding up a slim filigree 1910 pin (\$42) to the lapel of her blazer. "When it gets too dull, you take an old toothbrush and toothpaste and just go over it; you'll bring the shine back without ruining the tarnish." She also discovers a gold flower pin (\$55) and a silver 1950s-60s interlocking-leaf necklace (\$48), but it's not until she stumbles upon a peach beaded collar necklace (\$18) that she gasps, "I found what I'm looking for!"



Express (130 Fifth Ave between 18th and 19th Sts; 212-633-9414, express.com)



Palermo makes a beeline for the hosiery, wondering aloud, "Do they have any gray ones?" The store has her choice hue in stock—and the tights are just \$15 a pop. A neon-yellow python-print skinny belt (\$30) also tickles her fancy. "If I find a belt and I don't like the clasp so much, I'll get a bigger size and then knot or twist it so that the buckle isn't as visible," she says. She picks up an ikat-print sequined clutch (\$45), noting that "it's within the tribal trend for the season," before moving on to jewelry. She spies three gold-and-black fringed tribal necklaces (\$30 each) that she layers together with a silver tassel necklace (\$35). "It's knotted, so half the work is done," says Palermo. "I will take anything and rework it."

PHOTOGRAPHS: DEVIN ELIAH