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Class Act

Get the timeless elegant look down pat and do like Penelope Cruz by keeping things simple – a vintage Balmain gown, with a cushion-cut diamond choker and matching diamond stud earrings by Chopard. Alternative? This Van Cleef & Arpel's Étincelles necklace works just as well.

Legacy And Style

First published in 1845, Tiffany & Co.'s annual Blue Book has come to be regarded as the expression of the famed jeweller's craft. This year, Tiffany & Co. invites you to experience its exquisite art firsthand as it unveils jewels from the 2009 Blue Book collection in the Tiffany Jewels of Legacy and Style exhibition.

Held at the Ngee Ann City boutique, it presents some of the world's finest diamonds alongside the jeweller's newest designs. Star pieces of the collection include the Lucida Star necklace, named after Tiffany's patented Lucida diamond cut; a brilliant-cut 11.19 carat "Heart of New York" diamond ring that pays tribute to the city's glamorous image; and a vibrant collection of coloured gemstones including sapphires, tourmalines, rubellites and emeralds.

Loop De Loop

Count on these intertwining gold-plated and stainless steel bangles from Emporio Armani to up the chic ante of a dressed-down outfit or to punch up a glamorous look.

Hold That Thought

Meredith Kahn's Made Her Think jewellery has been spotted on Kate Hudson, Eva Mendes, Charlize Theron and Angelina Jolie. Originally trained in fashion design at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, Kahn had a passion for amassing beautiful ornaments and trinkets that soon sidetracked her to jewellery design. Her designs are inspired by Victorian mourning jewellery and the Roman sentiment of memento mori (or "be mindful of death") and play on symbolism and imagery – pearls for tears, hearts for love and swallows for sentimentality. Her darkly humorous designs are on the fast track to winning fans with their whimsical tales of life, death, love and seduction.

All About Ethics

Hollywood hunk and activist Leonard Dicaprio did his part to expose the underbelly of the gemstone industry in 2006's *Blood Diamond*. But when it comes to eco-friendly jewellery, is that where the buck stops? According to Pippa Small,

an anthropologist jeweller who has collaborated with Nicole Farhi and consulted for Gucci, it's not.

"There are still many problems attached to the jewellery industry," says Small. "Particularly the polluting effects of gold mining, which uses arsenic, cyanide and mercury." That's why Small works with an artisanal cooperative gold mine in Bolivia that extracts the precious metal without using any of these. She's also adopted a fair trade model to ensure that the gold is both ethically and ecologically sound.

This is a concern that's similarly shared with Vivien Johnston, founding designer of ethical jewellery label, Fifi Bijoux. In support of the orphans living among the mining community, 10 per cent of the profits from her 'From Little Acorns' pendants are donated to the Entebbe Women's Association Child Sponsorship Programme.

Count Franck

Franck Muller's iconic Talisman jewellery line sees a fresh injection of colours and materials. The ethereal magic of numerology comes in the form of earth-bound gold and diamonds, made all the more exquisite with hardy enamel in shades of blue, red, green, white and grey. Handcrafted by the artisans in the Franck Muller Watchland, the collection holds true to the marque's reputation for exceptional, original pieces.