

By Kate Williams



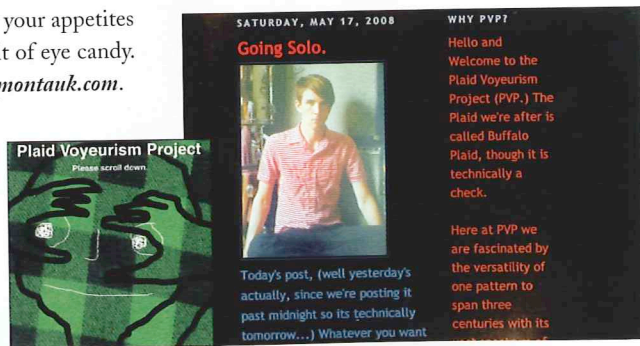
**GAR-DE**

Perhaps no item of clothing has more bad-ass connotations than the leather jacket. From James Dean to Hell's Angels to metal heads, it's always been tough and rebellious, but this season, it's also sexy as hell. Hurley and Alpinestars have created feminine versions of the classic leather jacket, and New York design collective GAR-DE has devoted their entire collection to leather, with ultra-cropped and hooded jackets, as well as accessories such as leather hats and leggings. "We wanted to try to start from the beginning and reinterpret one of the oldest materials used in clothing," says stylist and creative consultant Jessie Cohan. "We collaborated with some of the finest artisanal leather makers in Italy to sculpt it into different permutations, from sophisticated to renegade to playful. Trends come and go," Cohan adds, "but we believe that everybody should have one great leather jacket in their closet." *For more information, see gar-de.com.*



**The Surf Lodge,  
Montauk, New York**

Even boogie boarders are welcome at The Surf Lodge, Montauk's newest boutique hotel and restaurant. Located just a half mile from the beach, The Surf Lodge sits on Montauk's beautiful Fort Pond with a 2,600 square-foot outdoor lounge, has panoramic lake views in all of the rooms and 12 with private courtyards and hot tubs. Playing off Montauk's reputation as one of the finest surf spots on the East Coast, the decor is laid back and airy, with sun-bleached pine floors and surfboards, art, and mementos lining the whitewashed walls. The Surf Lodge's restaurant and bar will be helmed by hottie Top Chef alumni Sam Talbot, with full lunch and dinner menus planned around seasonal, local ingredients, which will satisfy your appetites for both a good meal and a little bit of eye candy. *For more information, see surflodgemontauk.com.*



**Blog WE Love: Plaid VOYEURISM PROJECT**

Abby Manock's been obsessed with plaid nearly as long as she can remember. "I grew up in Vermont, and Johnson Woolen Mills sells scrap strips from the end of their bolts of wool plaid fabric by the pound," she recalls. "My mom would buy them for our dog's bed and I would always steal a strip or two to make a belt or tie something together, until my mom was like, 'Go get you own or the poor dog is going to be sleeping on the cold bare floor.'" No longer stealing plaid, Manock now lives in Brooklyn, and she's the creative force behind the Plaid Voyeurism Project, for which she snaps photos and writes about spotting it on the street. Manock takes most of the photos with her camera phone, and says "I think the best ones are when I capture someone in plaid while I'm also wearing a plaid jacket. It makes it really sort of dangerous feeling, like flirting with the enemy. It's all about the thrill factor for me." *For more information, see plaidvoyeurismproject.blogspot.com.*