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# Style

## Emerald City



Celia Leung  
Fashion Stylist

Take a page out of Kermit's book and go green for your New Year's fashion resolution. Emerald was selected as Pantone's Colour of the Year for 2013. A global leader in manufacturing colours, Pantone sets the standards for the design industry. A shade is chosen for Colour of the Year after observing trends in fashion, art and interior design.

Emerald made a splash at a number of recent spring collections. Burberry fashioned one of its illustrious trench coats using a lace version of the green hue. Stella McCartney sent a few of her models down the runway in sporty, oversized emerald outfits. And though the colour spectrum was fully embraced at the shows of Vera Wang and Akris, it was the emerald pieces that really stood out. The luxe shade was even included in a few of the pre-fall collections that were just revealed, such as at 3.1 Phillip Lim, Gucci and Oscar de la Renta.

A vividly lush green, emerald represents renewal and growth — perfect for a fresh start to the year. Compared to previous Colour of the Year winners such as tangerine tango, a bright red-orange, and honeysuckle, a cheerful reddish pink, emerald is more versatile and easier to incorporate into daily ensembles. Emerald green is known as a universal colour, meaning it's flattering towards all hair colours and skin tones. So break out those pieces usually reserved for St. Patrick's Day and work them into your

wardrobe rotation.

Depending on your love for the colour, emerald can be worn as an accent piece or layered with other green tones, such as the ever popular mint, for a bold trendy look. When it gets warmer, try an emerald skirt with a pale mint blouse for a cool outfit that screams springtime. To prevent going overboard with green layers and looking like a leprechaun,

find printed or patterned pieces with green shades in them. It'll help tie the look together without being a green overkill.

Jewel-tones such as emerald, ruby or sapphire, are always great options for evening outfits if you want to veer from the traditional black. To bring out the vibrancy, go for fabrics with sheen like silks, satins and velvets — emeralds will look



Emerald lace trench coat at Burberry Prorsum's spring show. (Source: TheFashionSpot.com)

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Emerald lace trench coat at Burberry Prorsum's spring show. (Source: TheFashionSpot.com)

more luminous. Just think of Keira Knightley's slinky emerald silk dress in Atonement or Viola Davis' green Vera Wang number at last year's Oscars. For even more flash, opt for an emerald sequined piece. Emerald will also go wonderfully with

the neutrals that will be trendy for spring (black and white, in particular, were huge on the runways). Michael Kors mixed black and green together in rugby striped tops and geometric dresses for a polished elegance. To make a bolder statement

pair emerald pieces with bright, complementary colours such as cobalt or a deep purple. If adding emerald clothing to your style is too extreme, ease into the trend with accessories. Emerald is a great colour for bags and shoes, since green is a standard

colour for croc or snakeskin accessories and easy to find in stores. Plus the shade stands out even more against gold or silver hardware. Emerald costume jewelry is also a classic and nice to have for cocktail parties or dinners. Another simple



Brighten up your fingertips with green polish, such as Essie's Pretty Edgy. (Source: Essie.com)

way to wear emerald is on the nails. One of my favourite polishes is China Glaze's Emerald Sparkle, a deep green jelly with glitter. For the daring, try emerald liner or eye shadow. Green eye makeup was used on the models at Michael Kors, Stella McCartney and Derek

Lam this season. The colour provides a modern balance to peach or pink cheeks and lips. Use a cream or gel liner for a more intense look and pencil for a softer one. Daytime or evening, there are a variety of fun ways to include the colour

of the year into your fashion repertoire. Celia Leung is editor of *Coco & Rico*, a Vancouver based magazine focusing on local fashion, beauty and arts. She writes monthly on style and fashion in *The Richmond Review*. Reach her at [contact@celialeung.ca](mailto:contact@celialeung.ca)

**new year new style**

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