

# Fashion



(MELISSA OSTROW)

## Field trip!

You can get there from here! Andover is a short trek on I-93 North, just about 20 minutes. You can also take the commuter rail from North Station. First Date is located at 28 Chestnut Street. —YING WANG

### BEAUTY TIPS

#### A date with fitness

Instead of the usual dinner out, my husband and I decided to take a yoga class and treat ourselves to massages at Equinox Fitness. (131 Dartmouth St.)

Standing among some of Boston's most in-shape individuals, we trudged through a Sasoma class. I highly recommend the class for all levels as it's a great fusion of traditional yoga poses but really packs a punch with a balance of movement and stillness as well as energy and relaxation.



(WILLIAM ANDERSON)

We retired to our respective locker rooms and were met with cucumber water to refresh us before our massages. I received my much needed massage from Judilyn Green, spa manger. With a mix of chakra cleansing, reiki and deep tissue work she was able to un-tense my usually edgy self. My husband surfaced sleepy eyed and told me I was driving home, because he didn't want anything to ruin his complete and utter relaxation.

Equinox 50 minute Swedish Massage: \$110 each. —HOLLY JOHNSON

#### Make-up date

Whether your beau has planned a night at Symphony Hall or a run along the Charles, your makeup should vibe with the occasion.

Keep it light for a day date: To assist mother nature, try Benefit's Thrrrob, a sheer pink face powder that gives a bit of a flush. (\$28, Sephora)

A dressy date requires a touch of glam. L'Oreal's 2-Step Volume Construction Mascara builds volume and length for lush lashes. (\$12.99, Drugstores)

For a night date, show your siren side with smoldering eyes. Flash Color from Make Up For Ever comes in intense shades like Carmine, Emerald, and Violet. (\$17, Sephora)

—LAURIE GAIL

Laurie is the senior stylist and makeup artist for Candy Girl in Boston. (candy.girl@earthlink.net)



The newly opened First Date boutique is located in Andover.

(MELISSA OSTROW | BOSTONNOW)

# It's a (fashionable) date

BY RACHEL SOLAR  
BostonNOW Fashion Editor

Valentine's Day is over, but the dating season is just getting started. The Red Sox are in Fort Myers, which means spring is right around the corner. Before you know it, the coats will come off and Boston singletons will come out of hibernation. All of which leads us to one life-altering, metaphysical question: What am I going to wear?



Thankfully, a couple of local fashionistas have assembled every fashion weapon you need in your arsenal — all in one place. First Date is a new boutique in Andover, started by two sisters, Brianne and Keri Bar-



Giraffe bracelets, \$48. (MELISSA OSTROW | BOSTONNOW)

rett. And their winning idea is this: an adeptly edited collection of up-and-coming designers themed to match your date of choice: Sunday Stroll, Just Cocktails, Soirée, and Rent-a-Movie. Each section offers unique tops, bottoms, dresses and accessories.

The brilliance of this concept is both the sheer fun of it, and the way it captures how real women think about clothes, not as individual items or theoretical trends but as the starting point for an occasion that will turn out the way we hope. In fact, some of us have a rule that if you can't outfit yourself

at First Date, it's a no-go. Invited to watch him detail his Porsche or join him at a Star Trek convention? "Oooh, sorry, I just don't have anything to wear for that."

Co-owner Keri Barrett wears an orange Shoshanna dress, left, \$298, from the "Soirée" section, and a To The Max trench coat, \$142, from the "Sunday Stroll" section. (MELISSA OSTROW | BOSTONNOW)



## Killer heels, (and other date artillery)



Keri Barrett wears a Lauren Conrad Collection dress, \$145.

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Sisters Keri and Brianne Barrett are co-owners of First Date (shopfirstdate.com)

#### BostonNOW: What are some dating fashion pitfalls?

Keri Barrett: Realizing you got more dressed up than your date did! Really look at what time you are meeting and where he's taking you. If you are going to dinner, take a look at the restaurant and its menu online. [Another mistake:] wearing something you're not comfortable in. Make sure you've tried the outfit on prior to your date [and] feel good in it. If the straps are sliding off, your skirt feels too short or your top is too low cut, you will end up distracted and self-conscious, which your date will sense!

#### BN: And when in doubt?

KB: Dressy jeans tucked into high boots with a great top and jewelry can't go wrong!

#### BN: What are your all-time favorite date items?

Brianne Barrett: A fitted, scoop-neck top, dangly earrings, William Rast jeans and high brown boots. If the evening calls for something fancier, I'll wear a jersey dress with heels. KB: I love off the shoulder tops because collar bones are an extremely attractive part of a woman's body.

Read more online at BostonNOW.com/firstdate.