



FASHION

FASHION NEWS

Blake Lively's latest, Christian Louboutin moves from toes to tips and more from the front row

ROLAND'S NEW ROLE

Roland Mouret has created figure-flattering dresses for some of the most elegant women in the world, from the Duchess of Cambridge to Victoria Beckham. "I'm very fortunate to have been invited into the lives of so many strong, independent and powerful women," the designer tells *Hello! Canada*. "It's a beautiful thing when a woman opens her life to you."

On Aug. 7, fashion fans without a Hollywood-sized budget can open their lives to Roland courtesy of the designer's capsule collection for Banana Republic. Hour-glass curves are as near as the mall because of his use of the retailer's stretchy Sloan fabric. "The material gives a smoothing appearance and creates a

form-fitting silhouette, which has always been part of my design DNA," says Roland.

For this collection, the pro didn't always put a pencil to paper. "Sometimes a sketch of a silhouette is just not necessary when you drape fabric as brilliantly as Roland does on the body," says Melloney Birkett, vice-president of women's design at Banana Republic.

One lucky lady who's already had a peek at the collection is the face of the line, model Karolina Kurkova. "Karolina really worked her magic in the clothes and brought them to life in her own way," says Roland. "She knows how to move, how to embrace her womanhood and she knows how to capture your attention."

Even if you're not a sample size like Karolina, you'll find items in the collection that suit every figure, promises the designer.

"It is a matter of working with what you have and finding a silhouette to accentuate the good and hide the bad." **H**



Roland Mouret for Banana Republic one-shoulder dress, \$175, Banana Republic

Roland Mouret for Banana Republic blazer, \$185, and skirt, \$110, Banana Republic, bananairepublic.ca

SOLE MATES

Christian Louboutin is taking his first steps into the world of beauty through a new line of nail polishes.

It's a fitting move for the shoe designer, whose trademark red sole was originally achieved courtesy of a layer of vibrant red lacquer borrowed from his assistant's desk. "I'm giving back to nails what the shoe took from the nails many years ago," he says.

Rouge Louboutin, the colour from the underside of the pumps, debuts this month with 30 more shades hitting shelves in September.

Christian Louboutin nail colour in Rouge Louboutin, \$58, Holt Renfrew, christianlouboutin.com



PILLOW TALK WITH BLAKE

Blake Lively is stepping outside her role as chief curator of her new web venture Preserve – described by the actress as "part magazine, part e-commerce hub, part philanthropic endeavour" – to give painting a try. The actress (and wife of Ryan Reynolds) has collaborated with artist-to-the-stars Ashley Longshore on a capsule collection of throw pillows.

"Blake's attention to detail really illuminates her love of the artistic process," Ashley tells

Ashley Longshore + Blake Lively Seasons pillow, \$136 each, Preserve, preserve.us

Hello! Canada. The close friends worked together on four eco twill pillows depicting the seasons.

"Blake is soulful and thoughtful and so much fun to work with," adds Ashley, whose clients include Penélope Cruz and Salma Hayek.

Blake Lively showcases her knack for design in a new line of pillows.



CLOCKWISE (FROM BOTTOM RIGHT): LARRY BUSACCA/GETTY IMAGES; SAMIR HUSSEIN/GETTY IMAGES