

# W

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LOOKS  
FOR THE  
NEW YEAR  
AND THE  
NEW  
SEASON

**BEYOND BLUE:**  
The Season's  
Sexiest Denim

**Fantasy Island:**  
Major Glamour on  
Lake Maggiore

**AND:** Francisco  
Costa in Rio de  
Janeiro, Marina  
Abramović  
& Anne Bass

From Action  
Star to Domestic  
Goddess,  
**Jennifer Garner**  
on Her Career,  
Her Kids and  
Life With Ben

# JENNIFER GARNER





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From top: The Seaside Luxe boutique at Hawaii's Hualalai Resort, page 24; a garden path and a bedroom on Isola Bella, page 66; Cindy Chao's 18k yellow gold, tsavorite, ruby, sapphire and diamond brooch, page 32.

### TIME TO VOTE!

Log on to [WDESIRE.COM](http://WDESIRE.COM) to vote in our photography contest. Tell us which entry you think best conveys the idea of "obsession." The voting period is December 21 to January 19, and the winning photographer will be announced in February.

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# The Month in **Fashion**

Vive Lacroix...Barbie's cankles...Isaac's close-up. **By Marc Karimzadeh**

**New year, new dramas—at least in the fashion world.**



Christian Lacroix with a model in a look from his fall 2009 couture collection

## ✦ CHRISTIAN VALUES

Christian Lacroix's professional life has been full of nonstop drama in recent months. In May his company filed for bankruptcy, and many feared it would spell the end of his business. Financing, after all, is tough to come by now, and Lacroix didn't show a spring collection this past fall. Things were looking up in October, when Sheikh Hassan bin Ali al-Nuaimi, nephew of the emir of Ajman in the United Arab Emirates, put in a bid to buy the brand. But in November, on the day the deal was to be sealed, the Sheikh was a no-show. At press time, the fate of the label remained in question. Let's hope this story has a happy ending.



Barbie on a date in Paris, from Louboutin's diary

## ✦ IF THE SHOE FITS

Fashion loves controversy, and shoe czar Christian Louboutin certainly stepped into one in October. After Mattel enlisted him to create a limited-edition Barbie, a spokeswoman for the designer told *Women's Wear Daily*, *W's* sister publication, that Louboutin had deemed the doll's ankles too fat and intended to slim them. Barbie fans, not

surprisingly, were horrified. Louboutin later attempted to defend himself but didn't exactly deny making the criticism. "Barbie's foot has always been less curvy than the rest of her perfect body," he told *WWD*. "Fat ankles she didn't have; she just could have had thinner ankles." Three versions of the Louboutin-designed Barbie will be sold on Net-a-Porter.com; the first debuts in December for \$150. There's also a diary with photos of Louboutin and his little *amie* hanging out in Paris. One shot catches her partaking in an age-old French tradition—canoodling in a café—with a male doll who is decidedly not Ken. Could another scandal be brewing?

## ✦ LES MIZ

As he has proved with *Unzipped*, his eponymous talk show and his too-numerous-to-count television appearances, Isaac Mizrahi is pretty comfortable in front of the camera. Now he's taking to the airwaves in a new role: salesman. In December the designer launched a soup-to-nuts collection on QVC. Called Isaac Mizrahi Live, it includes everything from clothing to teapots and cheesecake.

And that's not all he's pitching. Mizrahi's designs for Liz Claiborne, which are sold under the label Liz Claiborne New York, failed to achieve much traction on retail floors, so the company decided in October to remove the line from department stores and sell it on QVC instead, beginning next fall. "It just feels so right," Mizrahi told *WWD* of his foray into small-screen retail. "It's such a direct way to address the consumer."



Isaac Mizrahi's cheesecake for QVC



## Luau Luxe

Shopaholics who get the urge to splurge while on resort vacations often have to make do with boxy logo T-shirts and golf accessories from the gift shop. When property developers MSD Capital and Rockpoint Group gave the Hualalai Resort on Hawaii's Big Island a \$40 million makeover, completed last summer, they set out to remedy that situation. Fashion-addicted guests can now sneak away from the pool to the 1,800-square-foot Seaside Luxe boutique, where such celebrities as Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Cameron Diaz and Stephanie Seymour have already indulged. In addition to select pieces from Allegra Hicks, Tory Burch, Diane von Furstenberg, Lanvin and Pucci, among others, and custom furniture by interior designer Tim Clarke, the shop is introducing a slew of designer exclusives in coming months. For spring, Philosophy by Alberta Ferretti created a white poplin dress with an elastic drop waist that will retail for \$360. Available-only-at-Hualalai items by Eres, Stella McCartney, Behnaz Sarafpour, Tomas Maier, Jenni Kayne, A.L.C. for Andrea Lieberman, and Irving and Fine will follow. It's enough to make you hope the airline loses your luggage.

Above: The Seaside Luxe boutique at Hawaii's Hualalai Resort