

Spotting a fake

Tomas Wedle of Couture Upscale Consign shows how to tell if Chanel and Louis Vuitton handbags are authentic. SunSentinel.com/RealDeal



Ralph Lauren Black Label cable cashmere sweater
Retail: \$395
Consignment: \$120

Gold-tone Roberto Cavalli necklace
Retail: \$840
Consignment: \$275

Louis Vuitton bangle bracelets
Retail: \$800
Consignment: \$520

Hermès silk scarf
Retail: \$410
Consignment: \$250

Hermès belt-bracelet
Retail: \$350
Consignment: \$195

7 for All Mankind jeans
Retail: \$160
Consignment: \$80

Louis Vuitton Galliera GM bag
Retail: \$1,800
Consignment: \$1,150

Christian Louboutin Alti spiked heels
Retail: \$1,495
Consignment: \$750

TOP SHOPS

Encore Plus

281 E. Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton, 561-391-3812, EncorePlusInc.com, carries a lot of vintage Chanel and has a great selection of evening wear with an on-staff seamstress.

Couture Upscale Consign

2939 N. Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale, 954-565-4348, CoutureUpscaleConsign.com, has a huge selection of designer handbags from Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Dior, Fendi, Gucci and Prada.

The Church Mouse

378 S. County Road, Palm Beach, 561-659-2154, hbts.org/churchmouse. Even though it's not a consignment, it's worth a visit because goods come out of the best closets on the island. Where else would you find a vintage Lilly Pulitzer Barbie for \$100?

(see more online, at www.cityandshore.com)

The Real Deal

FROM PRADA TO PUCCI, UPSCALE CONSIGNMENTS OFFER LUXE LOOKS FOR LESS

BY DOREEN CHRISTENSEN

If you're loco for logos from designers like Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Cartier, Prada, Pucci and Gucci, then hit South Florida's high-end consignment shops to save on those and other ultra-luxe brands.

If you enjoy arm candy from LV, Hermès or other designers that costs thousands new, the consignments sell these luxe looks for less, offering up to 75 percent off gently used apparel, accessories and jewelry for women and men.

Paulette Cooper Noble author of *Bargain Shopping in Southeast Florida*, (\$17.95 at ShoppingInFlorida.net), says high-end consignments offer fabulous deals on designer goods. Her book details 250 area thrift and consignment stores and also offers helpful advice.

"There is great variety in these stores that makes it fun to shop. You'll find European fashions and unusual and interesting things to buy that make it very serendipitous."

Model Colleen Cooper styled by Ashley Lipson of The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale; apparel courtesy Encore Plus, Inc. of Boca Raton.