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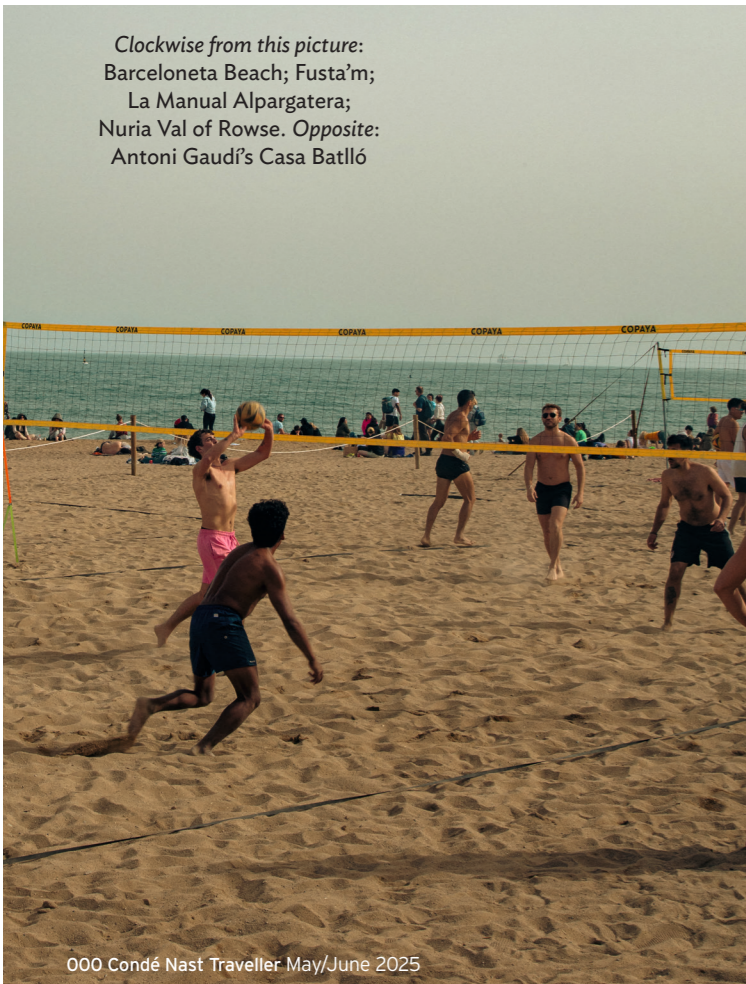


SHOPPING IN

BARCELONA

THE CATALAN CAPITAL IS A HIVE OF INDEPENDENT ENTERPRISE,
CONSCIOUS DESIGN AND VINTAGE FINDS

BY ELIZABETH BENNETT. PHOTOGRAPHS BY SOPHIE KNIGHT



Clockwise from this picture:
 Barceloneta Beach; Fusta'm;
 La Manual Alpargatera;
 Nuria Val of Rowse. *Opposite:*
 Antoni Gaudí's Casa Batlló





FASHION FINDS

Mallorcan Nadia Pape upgraded her love of vintage clothing to a business when she started selling pieces via her online store and Instagram account, **Los Feliz**. In summer 2022 she opened a bricks-and-mortar shop in Barcelona's Gothic Quarter. She sources clothes from the 1930s to the early 2000s on her travels, particularly in France and Italy. Highlights include 1990s fashion (Pape's favourite decade) and vintage Moschino, Gaultier and YSL, alongside non-designer finds. Tirsia V de Parga of **Muy Frágil** stocks an edit of contemporary designers – Hai, Camisas Manolo and Maison Cléo – and local jewellery, ceramics and candle brands. For affordable second-hand clothing, the Barcelona outpost of longtime Ibiza stalwart **Holala!** has a huge selection of pieces for women and men, and the charity **Humana's** vintage-only shops are great for preloved denim. lofelizshop.com; muyfragilshop.com; holalaibiza.com; humana-spain.org

design-led books, with barista-made coffee to boot. Today there are six **News & Coffee** stalls across the city. For fiction and non-fiction books in a range of languages, the Catalan-owned indie bookshop **Llibreria Finestres**, on an elegant boulevard in the Eixample district, is beautifully designed with cosy reading areas and plush velvet armchairs. It also has one of the city's best terraces, framed with plants and incorporating a bar that serves wine and tapas. newsandcoffee.eu; llibreriafinestres.com

CONSCIOUS CLOTHING

Spaniard Carolina Salazar Röa's mission is championing local young fashion designers at the start of their careers – especially those who value sustainability. The clothes she showcases in her shop, **Roüa & Friends**, include elegant upcycled knitwear by Rtama and Merrfer's footwear crafted from dead-stock materials. Seasonal lines from the Copenhagen brand Hosbjerg add to the mix. The store sits in the maze of narrow streets that wind behind the Picasso Museum in the El Born neighbourhood. The historical building is a talking point in itself, with its huge well-preserved 18th-century wooden doors, traditional Catalan beams and stone floors. roua.friends

PLANT-POWERED BEAUTY

When photographer and Barcelona native Nuria Val bonded with French Mexican Gabriela Salord, a cosmetics industry veteran, over their shared love of plants and appreciation for minimal beauty, **Rowse** was born. The brand's Barcelona headquarters – a light-filled studio on the edge of the city's former industrial area, Poble Nou – is an appointment-only shop and community hub. Visitors can sample the face, hair and body products – infused with organic cold-pressed plant-based oils – or try a yoga class or art workshop. rowse.co

SANDALS WITH SOLE

Now a firm holiday staple, espadrynes (known most commonly by their French name, espadrilles) had humble beginnings as the shoes for farmers working the fields of the Catalan Pyrenees. **La Manual Alpargatera** brought the lightweight summer sandals to Barcelona in the 1940s, opening a shop on Carrer d'Avinyó in the city's Gothic Quarter, where it still hand makes and sells them. The first business to manufacture a wedge version of the style and reinvent the centuries-old tradition, the brand has been worn by everyone from Salvador Dalí to Penélope Cruz. The shop remains largely unchanged, stacked high with shoes for adults and children in a rainbow of shades, and in styles both modern and traditional. lamanual.com

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Over the past decade about 6,000 newsstands have closed across Spain. So Gautier Robial, formerly head of digital at Wrangler, and his friend Pablo Pardo, an old hand in the Barcelona hospitality industry, decided to reinvent the roadside kiosk. They kept a selection of daily newspapers but added a clutch of international independent magazines and

DESIGNS FOR LIFE

Since 2010, Catalan collector and restorer Lúdia Matos and carpenter Oriol Vinas have been drawing crowds to **Fusta'm**, their shop tucked behind the Macba museum in the barrio of El Raval. It's an emporium of vintage 1960s and '70s furniture and homeware, from mid-century sideboards and cane Cesca chairs, to candy-striped ceramics, glass-pendant lampshades and woven baskets in all shapes and sizes. In the Eixample neighbourhood, **Les Eines** is a trip inside the mind of Giorgia Righetti, an Italian interior designer who's lived in Barcelona since 2009. An extension of her design business, this studio meets shop offers curated furniture, lighting and other finds such as rugs, table linens and ceramics. Alongside the mix of vintage pieces and contemporary brands, it also stocks its eponymous line, which includes a collection of marble tables in custom sizes. fustam.cat; leseines.com

NICHE NOTES

A few doors down from Fusta'm, **Les Topettes** is the perfumery of Catalan Oriol Montañes and his partner Lucía, a writer. Decorated in the style of an old pharmacy, the shop stocks products by well-known fragrance houses such as Diptyque, alongside experimental perfumes from brands including Nasomatto, Francesca Bianchi and Tauer. The pair keep things fresh with a rotating line-up of candles, perfumes and ranges of bath and body products, and by dreaming up their own creative scents. The first, called Lápiz ("pencil" in Spanish), is inspired by the aromas of pencil shavings and cedar wood. lestopettes.com

GLASS HALF FULL

Hidden on a tiny street in the Born district, **Vivinos** is the place to go for little-known wines. Started by sommelier Vivian Tavares, this shop is on a mission to share the huge range of bottles made in Spain. Focusing on micro-producers, it showcases about 25 varieties by the glass through daily informal tastings accompanied by cheeses. vivinos.com



Clockwise from this picture: Roüa & Friends; Vivinos; Les Eines; News & Coffee; Los Feliz; Llibreria Finestres; Fusta'm; Humana; Holala!

