

RETAIL THERAPY

BY MARIESSA TERRELL

Knot Standard

There was a time not too long ago when a young man in need of a two-piece suit had limited options. Basically whether he visited Hecht's or Syms he shopped off the rack. My, how times have changed! Today DC men who know Matt Mueller, the proprietor of Knot Standard haberdashery, have innumerable options. After obtaining a three-dimensional measurement via a home webcam, customers, depending on their pluck, can do more than just don impeccable tailoring. Knot Standard shoppers can become veritable designers by selecting innumerable customizations like



Sifting through swatches at Knot Standard, (left to right) Simone Butterfly and owner Matt Mueller. Photo by Eric Hill

contrasting jacket linings, buttonhole thread to highlight rather than obscure, collar liners, and even wording discreetly stitched just about anywhere. After only four weeks in their MidCity location Knot Standard is just that. Try on something bespoke for the holidays. *Knot Standard, 1407 S St. NW*

Smucker of Lancaster County

There is no better time than the holidays to imbibe ever so slightly more than usual. I for one can think of no other hostess gift quite as useful as a bottle of Château Ollieux Romanis Corbières red wine. Well, maybe two bottles would be even better. The 2010 cuvee is a lovely, full-bodied, traditional blend of 40 percent carignan, 30 percent grenache, and 30 percent syrah from an outstanding vintage from the south of France. With more structure than a straight syrah, a sophisticated punch on top, and a dry finish, this red is sure to cancel out the many preparation hours needed to ensure a festive Christmas soiree. By stocking their shelves with 350 gift baskets of wine, Smucker Farms has

provided an answer to the eternal question, "What do I bring to the holiday party?" I'm double-fisted for the duration of 2013. Let the fun begin!

Smucker Farms, 2118 14th St. NW

Redeem

Retailers are pulling out the full arsenal this holiday. They are not only hoping you will splurge on family and friends. They are insisting that you add one more person to your gift list. Can you guess who? The answer is YOU. I tested this new emphasis on self gifting during a recent visit to Redeem. There I stumbled upon CB I Hate Perfume, an exciting line of ready-to-wear perfumes by Christopher Brosius, who believes that "your sense of smell is one of the most important factors that defines you." My true self is quite romantic. I am a lover of Turner Classic Movies, outdoor tai chi classes, and tree-lined streets in Hillcrest (where my parents still reside). To my surprise, Christopher Brosius has already conjured up three perfect concoctions just pour moi: "A Room with a View," "Just Breathe," and (my favorite)



One for you and one for me at Smucker Farms of Lancaster County. Photo by Eric Hill

"Burning Leaves." The scents are remarkably true to their monikers. And, because charity begins at home, I feel absolutely no guilt whatsoever about self-gifting with gusto.

Redeem, 1810 14th St. NW

May your holidays be silver-lined! XOX Simone B

Mariessa Terrell, aka Simone Butterfly, Fashion Investigator, does her sleuthing at www.simonebutterfly.com and @SimoneBtrfly. ♦