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Resort fashions



It is always springtime somewhere in America, whatever the calendar may say. Here, in this country — which is a Continent — there is always a sunny paradise or other to be found. Happy the privileged mortals who can travel without cease, looking for the eternal spring which is always flowering in some corner of the United States.

Fortunately, these delightful holiday resorts are not reserved exclusively for the rich. On the contrary, to all who wish to work or rest, America offers the setting of the Californian riviera, tropical islands in the Caribbean, orange-groves in Florida, the golden Arizona desert and the majestic snowcapped Rockies. In these lovely regions, called by Americans the « playgrounds of the nation », holiday-makers of all

walks in life are to be found, sunning themselves in one or other of Uncle Sam's innumerable resorts.

Because Americans, perhaps by a throw-back to emigrant forebears, are not a sedentary nation. Even the New England families uproot themselves easily. In their heart, is the legacy of heroic Colonial days: a love of travelling around and of the open-air life. The family « Chev » or « Buick » with caravan trailer, has long since replaced the ancestral ox-team and covered wagon. The modern American is still a nomad by nature, even though he is a civilized nomad, most critical as regards travel comfort.

The American woman too is a traveller by taste and temperament. Furthermore, she knows how to travel, better than her European sisters. She knows how to do without cum-

bersome luggage and to restrict her wardrobe to a streamlined, or merely dynamic selection. No superfluous what-nots in the sleeping-car; no befeathered headgear for air travel; no frothy gown for wear in the road-house or log-cabin where evenings are spent around a vast open hearth built of rough-hewn stone, bright with the crisp sparkling flame of pine wood. No town wear for the dude-ranch in the desert, at Tuxon or Phoenix, Arizona, nor for Pacific and Mexican beaches.

Since travel-for-pleasure has come into its own again, there has been a splendid revival in favour of silks — so practical! Airy-light, uncrushable, smart — silk dresses are an invaluable item of the traveller's wardrobe. Gaily coloured printed crepe blouses, plain shantung shirt blouses, surah or brocaded silk waists, chiffon-georgette evening gowns, all fit snugly into the smallest of suitcases and shake out beautifully when unpacked, fresh as rose-petals and ready for wear the first night at the hotel. The same can be said for silk underwear, so agreeable, so light for air travel.

How precious too, is nylon lingerie to a woman on her travels — transparent, zephyr-light, washable, quickly dried and no ironing required. Nylon blouses, always impeccably crisp, are the perfect accessory for the travelling suit.

The American woman's remarkable common sense has given her an instinctive knowledge of what should or should not be packed. That is why Resort Fashion Collections, on view everywhere after January 1st, are composed essentially of basic dresses and synchronized ensembles. Basic dresses are simply styled, perfectly tailored « little » gowns which can be worn at any hour of the day and on any occasion with varied accessories such as flowers, jewels, scarves, leather or silk trimmings.

The typically American, synchronized ensembles consist of four or five matching garments: panties and bra to be used for beach-wear or, under an ankle-length skirt and chic little bolero or scarf, for evening. There are also alternatives in the form of coats, lonf or short, slacks or shorts. And, there you are! — everything for sunbathing or dancing.



American dresses made of Swiss cotton fabrics (from « Women's Wear Daily » New-York).