

www/know your style

Di wears Camilla  
caftan, Mela  
Purdie pants and  
Jigsaw wedges.

# Timeless chic

One of Australia's most popular writers, Di Morrissey, shares her secrets for looking great with **Deborah Thomas**.





Di wears Carla Zampatti blouse, Bianca Spender pants and her own Broome pearls.

Mela Purdie for travelling. Mela's clothes don't crush and they're simple mix and match in basic colours. I also have the talented Leonard Osborne, who's been making clothes for me for years. I'd love to own a flamboyant Easton Pearson dress, though.

**BEST BUDGET BUY?**

I found a man's fine cotton tuxedo shirt in St Vinnies that was French and a beautiful cut for just \$3.

**BEST EVERYDAY PIECE?**

A white linen shirt.

**MOST FABULOUS FASHION MOMENT?**

When my daughter married, I'd always dreaded being mother of the bride, but Leonard made me a glamorous, full-length black chantilly lace gown that was very romantic and very flattering – best of all, it is ageless.

**SIGNATURE FRAGRANCE?**

I wear Chanel No 5, Coco, Miss Dior and Joy. I like the flower-based classics.

**FAVOURITE FASHION COLOUR PALETTE?**

Gelato colours – pink, mint, pale aqua, cream and white. I also like undyed natural fibres.

**WHAT FASHION WOULD YOU NEVER WEAR AGAIN?**

I'll never wear hot pants again.

**YOUR SECRET WARDROBE SHAME?**

Probably something with sequins.

**WHAT IS THE HARDEST-WORKING ITEM IN YOUR WARDROBE?**

White linen pants.

**WHERE ARE YOU FAVOURITE SHOPPING HAUNTS?**

I find great things in small shops in regional areas. When I'm on book tours, there are wonderful little shops all over the country with interesting things in them. I bought a gorgeous Lisa Ho jacket in a small town in WA. And shoes. I buy lots of shoes. I go away with six pairs and come back with 12!

*The Silent Country, by Di Morrissey, will be published on October 28 by Pan Macmillan Australia, rrp \$32.99.*

**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE?**

I want to say understated, but probably relaxed is more appropriate. My style is dictated by climate and lifestyle because I divide my time between sub-tropical Byron Bay and the Manning Valley [in northern NSW], which can get into jumper and jacket territory. I work from home so I wear a lot of comfortable things – caftans, wide-leg pants and linen tops.

**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR SHAPE AND BUILD?**

Medium, as I have quite narrow, small bones. I fluctuate between size 12 and 14. Right now though, I'm probably a bit heavier than I should be, but I feel healthy and I have a lot of energy.

**WHOSE STYLE DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?**

I'm a real Coco Chanel fan. I love the style of women like Katharine Hepburn and Catherine Deneuve, Grace Kelly and our own Quentin Bryce and Collette

Dinnigan – classic, understated style that doesn't date.

**BEST PIECES THIS SEASON?**

I never follow fashion by buying what's the latest thing, although I enjoy looking at fashion magazines. I dress to suit me. However, it still has to be fashionable, that is, of this decade!

**YOUR FAVOURITE ACCESSORIES?**

Jewellery, shoes and pashminas.

**MOST RECENT INDULGENCE?**

Pearls, pearls, pearls. I've been promoting Broome South Sea pearls for 20 years! I've had a passion for pearls all my life, after receiving a beautiful pearl brooch from my grandmother and a pearl watch from my mother for my 21st birthday.

**FAVOURITE INTERNATIONAL DESIGNERS?**

Chanel, Valentino, Ralph Lauren.

**LOCAL DESIGNERS?**

Carla Zampatti for tailored clothes, Camilla for her beautiful caftans and

**MEET THE AUTHOR**

The Australian Women's Weekly and Dymocks invite you to meet Di Morrissey at our exclusive events, where you will receive one of Di's previous best-selling novels. SYDNEY: November 9, Dendy Opera Quays Cinema, 11am, morning tea, \$40, (02) 9449 4366. BRISBANE: November 12, Brisbane Town Hall, 6.30pm, beverages and finger food, \$35, (07) 3886 5704. MELBOURNE: November 17, CQ Functions, 6.30pm, beverages and canapés, \$36, (03) 9660 8500. PERTH: November 19, Fraser's, 10.30am, morning tea, \$35, (08) 9385 6820. ADELAIDE: November 23, Adelaide Library, 10.30am, morning tea, \$15, (08) 8223 5380.