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## Red bag to barbecue dinner

Soraiya Fuda | The Daily Telegraph | February 25, 2011 12:00AM

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# What... To Where?

Source: The Daily Telegraph

MANY of us have bought an oversized red bag but couldn't decide how to wear it. This week, our experts gives us advice on how to wear it if you're attending a friend's barbecue dinner and drinks.

Every Friday, three fashion experts and a woman who simply loves clothes will be put to the test with a "mystery item" of clothing or an accessory - the What - as well as social event the mystery will be worn - to Where?. The "mystery" will often be in your own wardrobe or at least affordable and easily found in most shops and the event will be one which most of us get invited to from time to time. Our three experts are Sydney stylist Annalisa Armitage, designer Sally Smith, Sydney Confidential's Joel Christie and fashion lover / newsreader Michelle Taverniti.

Michelle Taverniti is a Newsreader and a fashion lover.

"On a coolish summer night, opt for either jeans or a nice casual pant - in a camel colour - with a white tee and some wedges. That way you'll be comfortable and look the part without being too dressy or dressed-down.

On a warmer night, a navy and white striped maxi dress and flats would really set off a bright red oversized bag.

"But don't wear it with red clothing. Too much red and you'll come off looking like a candy cane. The bag should make the rest of your outfit pop - and remember it doesn't necessarily have to match, mismatching is all the go now.

"Earth-toned jewellery looks great with a bold red - as does leopard print.

"I'd go for a plain outfit and then accessorise with the bag accordingly - a nice touch would be a skinny leopard print belt on jeans, a plain top and the red bag to top it off.

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"I'm always cautious with red - I'd make sure the bag was a matte leather because shiny, patent red can look a little cheap.

"Also, a cherry red or orange-red is more subtle and likely to enhance your outfit rather than detract from it."

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Annalisa Armitage is the Owner and Principal Stylist for My Image Consultant. Visit [www.myimageconsultant.com.au](http://www.myimageconsultant.com.au) for more expert advice.

"Going to a friend's barbecue means a relaxed-style to me. So, starting with the shoes, flat silver/pewter/brass sandals, (or a wedge if your legs are short), worn with silk khaki coloured cargo pants, a white singlet, T-shirt or long sleeved top depending on where you live, how comfortable you are to show off your arms, and in a neckline that works for your bust, neck and face shape.

"Red with khaki and white will demonstrate individuality and creativity. To accessorise, wear a necklace that is large - my suggestion is one my client was wearing yesterday that she got from Saba - a combination of brass and pewter chains with silver or gold depending on your colouring. Mimco also has some similar.

"This will create some edge to the outfit, anything too delicate will get lost with the large pockets on the cargo pants and the oversized handbag.

"Don't wear jeans, or anything blue with red and white. It will make you look like a flag, unless of course you want to look like a flag.

"I also think to an event like this you don't want to look too contrived so no need to match a red belt or red shoes. Keep it relaxed and casual and enjoy.

"Of course the great thing about any oversized handbag is the ability to fill it with those essentials for staying out overnight and I'm sure your friend has a comfy couch."

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Sally Smith is the Director and Designer of her own business called Sally Smith. To find out more about Sally visit [sallysmith.com.au](http://sallysmith.com.au).

"I love a red accessory. I see stripes back with this oversized handbag.

"A colourful, strong print maybe a long T-shirt dress in colours of yellow, orange, navy and white/similar colours. It needs to be sporty and cool.

"Well, it's oversized, so don't wear anything that's too demure, girly or floral.

"It's a strong statement piece and needs an equally strong but simple garment to compete with it. Avoid wearing such a large leather bag with more leather or suede.

"I think that denim also would be great back with this."

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Joel Christie is the Daily Telegraph's Sydney Confidential Reporter.

"I love seeing girls with big designer bags and under-stated, op shop outfits. I think women should wear something boho to set off this look.

"Despite widespread belief, the bag really doesn't have to match the shoes.

"I hate when chicks constantly adhere to that because only sometimes does it look OK. Let the bag be the statement and keep it simple.

"The best accessory with this is a six-pack of beer and a few bottles of wine inside.

"It's a barbecue after all!"

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