

# Jewelry makes a great gift for the holidays

You know you've officially become part of "the establishment" when you start talking about Christmas shopping in mid-November instead of waiting until Dec. 20 to spend January's rent money on gifts.

I'm part of it. So deal with it.

As much as I loved getting clothes when I was 14, the fact is that it's extremely difficult to buy clothes for other adults.

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So often, clothing gifts don't fit or flatter, forcing the recipient to either fake it or hurt your feelings — awkward all around.

If you must buy something wearable, flex your fashion muscle with jewelry.

I'm not talking about a six-pack of stainless-steel studs from Claire's; I'm talking about the good stuff: real gold, silver and stones. Stuff the person you give it to will probably keep forever.

There is a glut of opportunities to buy the good stuff in the next few weeks.

Last but certainly not least is the clandestine showing of the **Alvaro Correnti Collection** from Sicily.

Santa Fe native Annette Alvarez is hosting her friend Leila Correnti and her collection of 18K and 22K gold, oxidized silver, aquamarines, rubies and diamonds and other precious stones for an exclusive showing at a secret location on Nov. 30.

In a phone interview last week, Alvarez told me she discovered Correnti's work while strolling down a grand boulevard in Taormina, Sicily:

"Her jewelry was just striking; it was like pieces the Greek and Roman royalty wore but also something that I could wear myself. Each one unique; each one having something attached to the past. I started trying it on and falling in love with it — rings, bracelets and necklaces. I knew I had to have it even though I was between jobs."

Apparently, Alvarez has good taste. Rumor has it the pope, the president of Italy and the queen of Savoy own Correnti jewels.

If you are wondering what these wondrous baubles cost, you can't afford them. But I'll tell you anyway: \$250-\$10,000.

Still interested? Call Alvarez at 424-2213 to arrange a private showing or to RSVP for the Nov. 30 event — which will include wine and food personally prepared by Correnti.

"Her approach is very, very, personal," said Alvarez.

I'll say.