

*In the Boutique Garden***More Than 70 Boutiques Weather the Weather**

BY SUSAN SAITER

“Hot” at this year’s Hampton Classic could only mean one thing — fashion. Given the weather this week, boutique managers were not able to rave about sales, but they were able to say that Classic-goers continue to show style.

One business owner, Esperanza Leon of Solar, which is based in East Hampton, said out loud what many others were thinking. “Honestly, it’s hard to tell what the big trends are this year with how few people are coming in this weather.”

Starting at the top — the Lacoste “L” hat is the one to keep off any sun that may peek through. Ashley Turner Rust at the Turner & Co. boutique said the hat was disappearing from its shelves. Also must-haves there were straight-leg jeans, especially Siwy and J Brand, along with good old Sevens and True Religion. “Bell bottoms and bold stitching are giving way to cleaner, simpler lines,” Ms. Rust said, “and dark denim, black, and gray are the newer shades.”

Fall-weight wool Johnson shorts, the kind Lindsay Lohan has been wearing, are also popular for daytime or evening, with heels. And don’t think because there is so little material in them that they are cheap; we’re talking around \$200. Turner & Co. stocks them along with Lilymcneal nautical striped cashmere sweaters, which have been selling, she said. To-the-ankle leggings are the newest thing for accompanying a flowing dress, such as the white James Perse cotton dress the boutique has displayed.

One good buy is a \$20 pair of sunglasses at Turner & Co.

And if things keep going the way they have been, despite the weather, there may be a few pairs left by Sunday.

Wild Horses Ltd. seems to attract all ages because of its preppy selection of belts, boots, and raincoats, among other items. This year, Betty Boop and Gumby T-shirts by Cheesey are hits, according to Elaine Riley. Cellphone holders with Burberry and Polo-type designs also are popular she said.

P.J. Huntsman & Co. has had quilted John Partridge jackets on sale, and they were going fast during Thursday’s chilly weather, according to Ross Colombo. Wide headbands, scarves, and other hair accessories reminiscent of the 1960s are selling to young as well as mature women at Lazlo. Suzanne Carson, Kids on the Beach’s owner, said she was selling lots of 1960s-look clothing. “Empire waists and dresses to just below the knee are very much in,” she said, showing off a silk shantung pink cocktail dress with a pink bow. She also said silk tops to wear with jeans are still going for evening, with high heels.

A special Hampton Classic edition scarf with a rider on a horse, a horse pulling a cart, and a horse galloping pattern is selling at Hermes, according to salespeople. The scarf is \$320, and comes in pink with orange or blue with green. Catherine Canino of Catherine Canino Jewelry said that for the Classic big, multihued pearls with stirrup designs or clasps are popular. “And, in general, for fall, gold is going strong,” she said.

London Jewelers is featuring a large array of stirrup jewelry by Robert Coin and Gucci. Solstice Designs features



The “L” hat is a seller

Abbey Faulhabert Photos

more casual contemporary jewelry. Jennifer D. Nielsen designs her jewelry out of ocean-tumbled stones. “Earrings are the big seller right now,” she said.

At the Solar boutique, casual jewelry made in Colombia out of semiprecious stones were one of the popular items. “The pretty necklaces with palm fiber weave have also been good sellers, along with jewelry with shells and seeds,” Esperanza Leon said.



Straight-leg jeans . . .



cellphone covers . . .



and wide headbands make the scene.