

Summer

BRAINS AND BRAWN WILL BATTLE IT OUT ON THE BEACHES DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS AHEAD. THOSE OF YOU WHO FOCUSED ON THE CEREBRAL ASPECTS OF LIFE, AND PREPARED FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM WITHOUT REGULAR VISITS TO THE HEALTH CLUB, MAY FIND YOURSELVES CAUGHT BY SURPRISE AS THE WEATHER CALLS FOR LESS CLOTHING AND MORE MUSCLE.



Photo: Anne Klein

Anne Klein's
Bandeau
Bikini

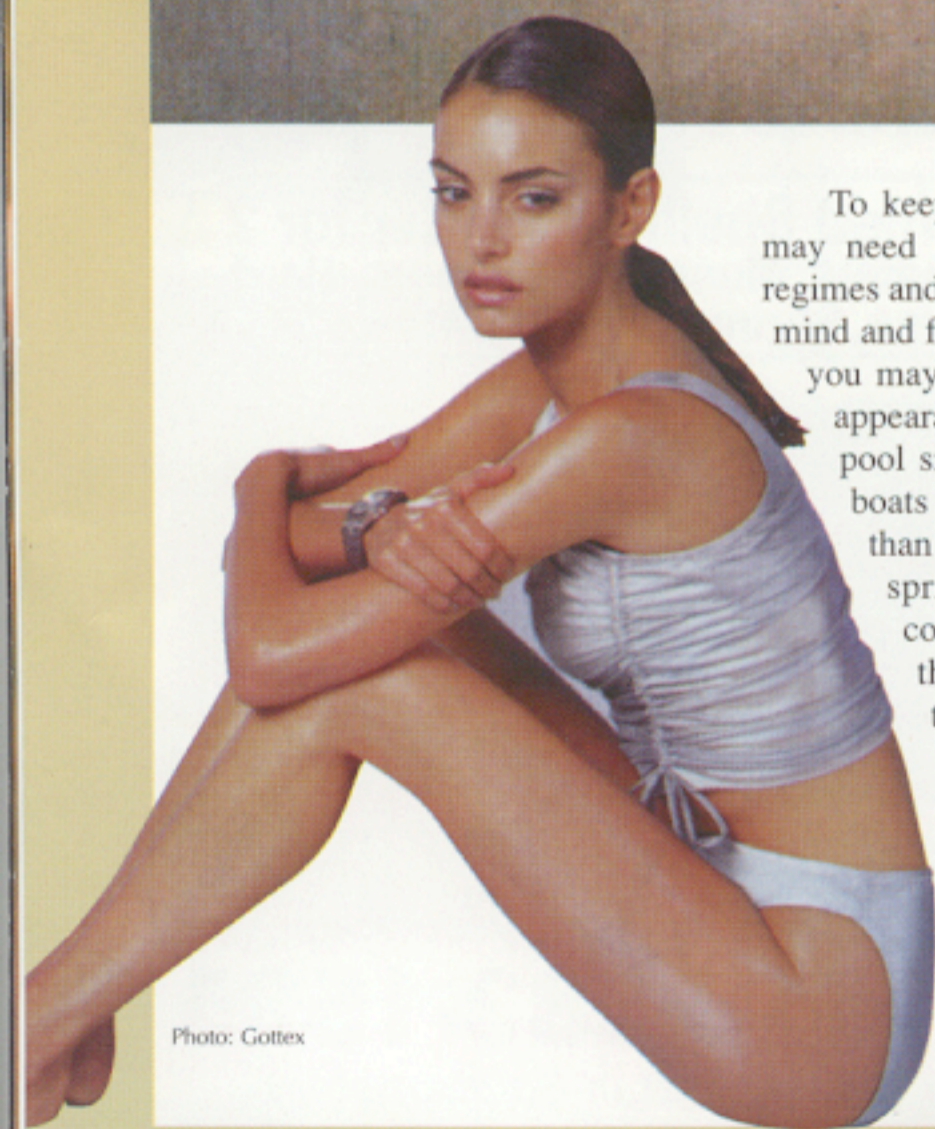


Photo: Gottex

To keep yourselves in balance, you may need to jump-start those exercise regimes and healthy dietary plans. A clear mind and firm body are the groundwork you may need for those scantily clad appearances on sandy beaches, at pool side, in the water or on board boats that beckon. What better time than now, during the height of spring? Nature is alive with color, motivating you to take to the great outdoors to shed those excess pounds. Why not sizzle in this season's hottest new swimwear? Since fashion dictators have reinterpreted what perfect means for both men and women, summer can be more

Timid from Gottex.

enjoyable for those with or without 'perfect' curves and pecs.

Within reason, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Victoria's Secret's gorgeous model, Laetitia Casta, appears on the cover of the 1999 Swimsuit Catalogue. The most anticipated catalogue in the world is showing off one of their newest looks, a techno-colored suit held together with VS signature metal accessories at the cleavage and hip, and a sexy criss-cross strap over the torso. Shot in Cabo, San Lucas, Mexico, this hot style recreates a bit of paradise for men within viewing range. Not recommended for the shy or flabby. However, don't starve yourselves, ladies. Reduce your intake of carbohydrates - replacing them with fruits, vegetables and proteins - and increase your cardio workouts.

**Bouquet
from Gottex.**

Far right: Twins Swimwear.

This year, more than ever, Victoria's Secret Swimwear features unique fashion details. Many suits have embroidery, stitched on butterflies, flowers, signature metal pieces, cut-outs and color contrasted piping.

For the less endowed, the Miracle Bra Collection, exclusive to Victoria's Secret Swimwear, features a classic bra top with underwire cups and removable demi pads for enhanced push-up shape, guaranteed to make you feel more woman in just the right places.

Taking the lead from Victoria's Secret, Gottex added a new molded



PLAYS

by **Bettina Marks** / Brie Bythewood, contributor

push-up cup, heightening the sex appeal of every swimsuit. The message is sexy, feminine, sensual and endowed. Breasts are in again. Don't fear if you aren't amply gifted. You can believe in miracles without saline, silicone or anything else alien to a woman's body. These suits enhance any woman's size for a more balanced look. Besides, it's still fashionable and chic all over Europe, the South of France, South Beach and along Long Island's shores to be relatively diminutive on top. And don't some men prefer that?

Gottex celebrates the countdown to 2000 with worldly themes like techno silvers, sophisticated whites, clean cut B&W, watery blues, earthy animal prints and new variations on signature Gottex florals. Ultra-light fabrics are combined with sculptured textures, and feature double-layered tulle and lycra transparent inserts and laser cut-outs. This unique concept - combining differ-

ent fabrics in swimwear - is still relatively new and creates a mysterious allure with a sense of illusion. What man doesn't like that? Reality is sometimes a rude wake-up call, though, so beware once the veil is lifted. Spanish Rose and Bouquet, two of Gottex's newest floral collections styles, use shears to create illusion, coupled with floral imagery. This styling creates the allure but keeps the look modest.

Timid and Teaser are two unusual Gottex looks that manage to succinctly embody the future of new technology, all the while reflecting the sensual, sculptural feeling reminiscent in a draped Michelangelo statue. Timid's crumpled, almost-to-the-waist silver tank top is gathered and crunched together with a unique techno silver tie. It coordinates with a sleek, high-cut silver bikini bottom. Teaser is a unique style tank until the mid torso, when it is gathered, crunched together and form-

fitted over the hips and techno bikini bottom. Both are in a shimmering silver fabric, very sensual and chic. Keep your tummy tucked in, as these form-fitting looks don't adhere well to flab.

The look of Tommy Hilfiger's all-American ready-to-wear collection pervades its spring swimsuit lines. Primary colors, bold stripes and the signature Tommy "T" appear in striking graphics, advertising the fresh-faced, outdoor Tommy image. Its classic navy with white and yellow stripe boy-cut leg bottom, with navy tank midriff "sport bra" with center front zipper, reflect the American fitness craze. The two-piece collection can be mixed and matched, alternating the boy-cut leg with the high-cut bikini bottom, with its wide stripe blazing across the bias.

The one-piece royal blue tank, with the yellow Tommy "H" across the chest, and yellow piping gracing the contour, is perfect for the pool or the challenge



**Elisabeth Swimwear
by Liz Claiborne.**



Victoria's Secret.

Jantzen.



of ocean waves. These suits make a statement on a strong, lean, muscular body. It's about athletics. They're all made from 80% nylon and 20% spandex and come in small, medium and large sizes. Be a part of the Tommy team and knock 'em dead in a kayak, on water-skis, in a rowboat, on a surfboard, in the ocean or at the finish line in an Olympic-sized pool. This look exemplifies the image of the American dream. Strong, hardworking, competitive and always able to fight.

When it comes to swimwear, it's either hot or it's not. Jantzen knows this all too well and understands the growing needs of the changing woman. Movies, musicians, magazines and Madison Avenue are just a few of the fashion gurus promoting what's hot and what's not. And this season, summer temperatures are rising with new bra silhouettes. In addition to the usual halters and triangle bras, the new two-piece tankini is turning heads with a practical style for those wanting more coverage without wires and clips. In addition, some suits are designed for those seeking bust enhancement and tummy control features. With more separates available this season, Jantzen's varying styles and patterns fit the woman of 1999. You can find Jantzen's swimwear just about anywhere.

To balance out excesses and shortcomings, Twins Swimwear is offering a variety of separates for those of us with too much or too little in certain places. The uncomplicated tops include padded or unpadded triangle, sport bra, bandeau and tankini. Bottoms range from full shorts to boy shorts to sarong, with 10 other styles from thong pant to high Euro. The tremendous variety of styles can be mixed and matched in any sizes. The Florida-based manufacturer - begun by twin sisters 32-years ago - is available to New Yorkers by calling (212) 302-1210.

With prints a hot commodity this season, Elisabeth Swimwear by Liz Claiborne combines fashion and fit in an exceptionally flattering collection for plus size women. Elisabeth's Safari Print Surplice combines two safari-inspired prints, which fashionably disguise the middle region of your body. The suit's powernet tummy control provides additional support.

For some, the beach is all about turning heads and looking your best in the least amount of clothing, but for others it's all about having fun in the sand. Beach volleyball, anyone? This season, Liz Claiborne's swimwear collection is highlighting athletic looks that can be worn by anybody, and will look good on every body. The new collection of clean and classic designs boasts a higher waist and wide straps for more coverage and support where it's needed. So play hard, ladies. This sporty bikini was made for having some serious fun.

Designed with the fashion-savvy customer in mind, Anne Klein Swimwear has taken the cutting edge designs from the ready-to-wear collection and transformed them into a breathtaking collection of bathing suits. Anne Klein's new Bandeau Bikini is sleek, sophisticated and made for maximum skin exposure. Those with the body to show off this little number, go ahead and flaunt it. You'll get a great tan while you're at it.

You may be all-American in your Tommy suit, healthy, fit and strong in Liz Claiborne's sporty bikini, or a goddess of the sea wearing the sultry styles of Victoria's Secret and Gottex. The summer months ahead, when you are being kissed by the sun and the sea, offer you new adventures where you can revel in feeling alive and beautiful in your newest summer attire. Keep the suntan lotion flowing, but careful not to ruin your new suits. □

Jantzen.





Spanish Rose from Gottex.



Twins Swimwear.



Victoria's Secret.

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