



Decoding the Dress Code

The spring social season is in full swing, and “What to wear?” is the question on everyone’s mind.

Ask 10 people to define “casual attire,” and, chances are, you’ll get 10 different answers. Before you panic about what to wear to your next affair, relax and read on. We consulted some of the best event planners in Atlanta on foolproof guidelines to dictate your next event ensemble. Their advice will ensure you’re looking fabulously appropriate. —LISA HORTEN AND IVORY MONROE

Custom invite by Praxium
Press, 533 West Howard Ave.,
678.860.3175, praxiumpress.com

Garden Party

Color and pattern abound in fashionable hues, making for stunning complements to the garden setting. Ladies don mini sheath dresses and long maxi dresses paired with impeccable accessories and strappy wedges. Guys show their personalities with modern lines of the ainsley collared patterned shirt, sporty slacks, sports coat, and slip-on loafers. It's a balance of pattern and use of complementing colors that make this a standout for the modish couple. —Stefanie Dunn, The Wedding Box Atlanta



Cut-out floral embroidery cap sleeve dress in fennel, \$770, by Tibi at Saks Fifth Avenue



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White and navy polo stripe T-shirt, white wide-leg denim trouser, and navy double-breasted blazer, all pricing upon request, at Salvatore Ferragamo



Bella Donna in straw with espresso python trim, gold hardware and monogram, \$1,760, by Kara Ross NY at kararossny.com



Alex wedge in swamp crochet, \$365, at Stuart Weitzman



Plastic frame aviator sunglasses, \$255, at Salvatore Ferragamo

Mara croc-embossed wedge, \$295, by Diane von Furstenberg at Neiman Marcus



Bronze straw Grafton clutch, \$1,190, by Oscar de la Renta at oscarde la renta.com



Hot to Trot necklace, \$95, by Kate Spade New York at Bloomingdale's



Casual

During the spring and summer seasons, casual means light colors and short sleeves. Wear a collar and a light linen jacket—but no shorts, unless the event is poolside. When in doubt, be thoughtful and ask the host for attire suggestions, as casual can be interpreted differently depending on the location, occasion, and day or time of the party. —Tony Conway, A Legendary Event

Custom invite by Alee & Press, 404.550.2767, aleeandpress.com



Striped wrap dress, \$650, by Jenni Kayne at Ann Mashburn



Sun-faded washed fleece crewneck sweatshirt, \$70, and vintage slim-fit jean in white denim, \$98, at J.Crew

Betsy sequin shift dress, \$550, by Alice + Olivia at Saks Fifth Avenue



Crosby Cosmic metallic steel/gold bag, \$350, by Lauren Merkin at Neiman Marcus



Oh Really! open-toe pump in Noir patent leather, \$645, at Louis Vuitton

Brown calf leather cap-toe lace-up, \$860, at Salvatore Ferragamo



The "Cool Effect" wardrobe, a new innovation from Lanificio Ermenegildo Zegna, offers protection from the sun's rays, thanks to an exclusive finishing and dying process. Perfect for the guy who wants to feel as cool as he looks. Cool Effect wool blazer, \$1,995, cotton dress shirt, \$425, wool and cotton trousers, \$495, leather loafer, \$565, leather belt, \$230, and silk scarf, \$140, at Ermenegildo Zegna

Cocktail

Party-goers can clutch the drama this season by using ultra-feminine or masculine looks—no subtle statements this year. Handsome beauty is present with intense color and bold print patterns. The twist for both boys and girls is the mix and mingle of classic austere styles with easy, laid-back elements in clothing. —Christina Calhoun Zubowicz, Magnolia Events & Planning



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Black Tie

There are so few true black-tie events these days, so if you get invited to one, go all out and bring the fabulous. Gents, a one-button tux with a black silk bow tie always looks appropriate and timeless. The key is to look crisp and pulled together—never over-the-top. For the ladies, luxe fabrics like silk, taffeta and chiffon are all appropriate for the occasion, and make sure the shoes are fabulous. —Brian A.M. Green, F&G Events

Custom invitation by Luxe Expressions, 770.424.6192, luxexpressions.com



Strapless gown with front knot detail, \$2,800, at Gucci



Anthony wool Gabardine tuxedo, \$2,150, at Ralph Lauren



Floral motif medallion necklace with hand-poured resin cabachons and lobster claw catch closure, \$790, by Oscar de la Renta at Saks Fifth Avenue

Mechanical watch cuff links, \$300, by Tateossian at Saks Fifth Avenue

Holly clutch in black pearl, \$595, at Tiffany & Co.



Crown glitter-covered and metallic leather pumps, \$695, by Jimmy Choo at Saks Fifth Avenue