

THE SUEDE BRIGADE

STYLE EXPERT **SUSAN POLLARD FREIMANIS**, OWNER OF ALEXANDRIA BOUTIQUE **DUCHESS M**, HERALDS THIS CLASSIC FOR YOUR AUTUMN ARSENAL.
BY CAMILLE CAUTI

Tell us more about this season's suede trend.

Susan Pollard Freimanis: We're seeing it everywhere and in every color! Lots of miniskirts, leggings, and long jackets that can dress up a pair of jeans or give a plain dress an extra boost. The most popular shades are browns, from dark to light. They're great for any skin tone.

How can Washingtonians wear it?

SPF: By adding one great selection—say, a skirt in any length. You can pair it with sandals in summer, then tights and boots for fall.

Is suede appropriate for work?

And how can you take it from desk to date?

SPF: Suede can be work appropriate if you choose one signature piece, such as a dark blouse under a suit, or a beautiful jewel-tone sheath dress. When you're ready to go out, you have a stunning blouse with skinny suit pants, heels, and maybe a statement necklace.

Other than yours, what are your go-to shops in the area?

SPF: We love to shop at Bishop Boutique (bishopboutique.com), The Shoe Hive (store.theshoehive.com), and Kiskadee (kiskadeeshop.com), although all the boutiques in Alexandria are extraordinary.

What's your favorite thing about the DMV fashion scene right now?

SPF: I'm excited to see an edgier style. Historically our market has been classic and conservative; now we're seeing classic styles with an updated edge. A perfect combination! *Duchess M*, 805 King St., Alexandria, 571-982-3118; duchessm.com ■

The rust pelt: Aleni silk top, (\$268), Melita suede skirt, (\$798), and Jolet suede boots (\$598), Diane von Furstenberg. dvf.com



“THE MOST POPULAR SHADES ARE BROWNS, FROM DARK TO LIGHT. THEY’RE GREAT FOR ANY SKIN TONE.”

—SUSAN POLLARD FREIMANIS