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Putting
a Look
Together



Ankle-baring pants and a couple of easy tops with rich, pretty detailing—all in safari-ish colors—are **Rory Tahari's** preferred pieces for spring. Jacket, \$998; blouse, \$228; pants, \$198; shoes, \$395, all Elie Tahari. Jewelry, Rory's own.

CROPPED PANTS: HOW TO WEAR THEM

Cropped pants are cool in every sense: modern, casual, breezier than full-length for warm weather, yet more appropriate than shorts for dressier moments. But they can fall short unless you pay serious attention to style and proportion. We asked sportswear aficionado **Rory Tahari**, vice chairman and creative director of Elie Tahari, for her take on the trend.

- "PLAIN, PLAIN, PLAIN. No cargo pockets, no drawstrings, no stripes"—that's the way Rory likes her cropped pants. Gimmicky details can look fussy.
- WHERE THEY HIT YOUR LEG is crucial. Midcalf is fine for taller women (who can afford a break in the vertical line); if you're under 5'4", go lower—you need every lengthening inch you can get.
- YOU'LL LOOK SLEEKEST in crops with stretch in the fabric to hold you in; for firmer control, try undercover support in the form of a thigh-long shapewear piece ("Spanx are a girl's best friend," Rory says).
- THINK BALANCE: Wear looser crops with a close-to-the-body shirt, fitted pairs with a blousy top (make sure it's not too long and full, or you'll risk looking squat).
- "SEPARATE PIECES are more versatile than dresses," says Rory. "Crops are a refreshing alternative that can go straight from work to playing with my kids."

THE RIGHT SHOES

A **higher heel** (Bottega Veneta, \$1,100) can work with crops if the straps **match your skin tone**, so leg, foot, and shoe create a single line. Avoid interruptive stuff like ankle straps. Pants, Etro, \$478.



Flat shoes like these **slides** (Claudia Ciuti, \$322) are a good balance for fuller crops (low-profile sneakers also work). Footwear that **shows more skin** creates the flattering illusion of a longer leg. Pants, Lela Rose, \$495.



Don't do stilettos with shorter pants unless you're a fashion risk-taker. **Kitten heels** (Michael Kors, \$435) are a charming alternative; matching shoe color to skin tone elongates the leg. Pants, Alvin by Alvin Valley, \$168. *For details see Shop Guide.*

