

A Century of Cherry Blossom Magic

WASHINGTONIAN

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NEW DINING
SPOTS

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AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO
OFF-THE-BEATEN-PATH THINGS
TO SEE AND DO

WASHINGTONIAN.COM \$3.95





Under a Rainbow

Burberry Kensington
Misregistered Geometric Umbrella,
at bloomingdales.com.

\$195



City Slicker

The Voyager Trench, by Wrap Habillement,
at Hysteria [125 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria;
703-548-1615] and shophysteria.com.

\$375

It's a Wrap

Waterproof
Rainrap, in four
color combinations,
at rainraps.com.

\$48



In the Bag

Furla Candy
Satchel, in rubber, at
Bloomingdales.com and
bloomingdales.com.

\$198

LET IT RAIN

Weather April showers in style—
with rain gear that brightens a cloudy day

BY KIM FORREST



Purple Rain

Pasotti's Unsurpassed
umbrella with jeweled handle,
at SimplySoles [National
Harbor, Dixon Hill; 301-749-
1744] and simplysoles.com.

\$198

Puddle Jumper

Rainy Day Bow plastic-
and-rubber ballet flat in peach,
blue, or black, at selected
J. Crew stores and jcrew.com.

\$58



Anny Hong Always Prepared

Anny Hong, a meteorologist and reporter for WUSA, knows how to weather a storm in style. She keeps three pairs of rain boots in her trunk—her high-gloss teal Hunter boots, a yellow J. Crew pair, and pink ones from Target—to alternate on camera.

"My gear needs to be practical," she says. "But I try and show my personality through accessories, so I want them to be fun."

Hong recommends windproof umbrellas from Totes or ShedRain. She's often on camera in a North Face jacket or a hooded red Burberry coat. Extra socks, usually from REI, and Lancôme waterproof mascara are other musts for rainy-day assignments.

Hong, 32, prefers to buy high-quality items that last. Her favorite piece, a quintessential Burberry trench, has been with her since college. "The classic design never goes out of style," she says, "making it great for the camera." —LAURA WAINMAN

On the Dot

C. Wonder
navy-and-white
polka-dot lace-up
rain boot, at
cwonder.com.

\$78



The Community Builder

“

Old Town
is what
Main Street
used to be
in small
towns.”



Elizabeth Todd

Todd has been infatuated with Alexandria—she lives six blocks from the Shoe Hive, her Old Town boutique—since she relocated from Ohio in 1998. After discovering that there was no easy way for visitors to learn about the independent shops operating in and around King Street, she worked with the city of Alexandria and Bloomers owner Kim Pulcini to found the Old Town Boutique District in 2007. What began as a seven-store affiliation now includes 25 boutiques; they put on everything from a scavenger hunt to an annual warehouse sale. Todd's ultimate goal? To make her hometown a shopping destination of national note. "I want people to get off a plane at National Airport and think, 'Do I have time to shop in Old Town?'"

