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VOGUE

the voguelist

Have fun, be good

Eco shopping

Ethical choices add to the ease for guilt-free shopping sprees

Ethical shopping is becoming a stylish option. When you need to show a bra-strap, try replacing it with pretty crystal beaded ones made by (and supporting) Zimbabwean women who have lost their homes. Clare Elsmore-Dodsworth's Gifted Label's beautiful embroidered bags, meanwhile, play a part in sustaining Mongolian communities. Or buy a hip Project Red product like the Red Motorola phone, £149. Each sale notches up £10 towards the fight against Aids in Africa.



The new...

Invite

Create a social buzz with a witty invitation – by text

Throw yourself a surprise party, like actress Nina Young, who texted this message to her friends:
"I am having a surprise birthday party for myself. Be careful not to let anything slip, as we wouldn't want me to find out. You can come earlier but no later than 9pm as I will be arriving at approx 9:30pm. I will be with a few friends (who, I assume, will just be popping in to my empty flat with me). We will make lots of noise in the corridor so you know I am coming. You hide, I turn on the light; you shout "SURPRISE!" I put my hands to my mouth and am overwhelmed. I ask you how you all kept it a secret; then we party on. Please bring a bottle. RSVP but not to me of course (it's a surprise remember)."

The green space

Garden greats

Exotic drought-surviving plants are a smart and chic option

Climate change and hosepipe bans force a rethink in the garden - plants that survive drought are the new horticultural winners. Their slender leaves, spikes and toughness have developed in response to more intense climates than ours. The Silver Spear has gorgeous, almost metallic leaves and produces yellow flowers and orange berries. It sits well alongside dark-leaved or stemmed plants like Aeonium "Zwartkop", Blue Fescue or Coral Flower. From £15, at Crocus.co.uk.

