

COVER AND BELOW GETTY IMAGES



£170, boden.co.uk

£150, boden.co.uk

£59, stories.com

Chrissy Teigen wearing Alexandre Vauthier

Street-styler Bettina Looney

£79, stories.com

you got an LVD*?

Like the wafy, long-sleeved mididresses we spent most of the summer in, the LVD is a winter fashion saviour: it's the same style, only in velvet.

Velvet has been on a cleansing journey since the days of Sloane balls, where there was so much of it everybody stuck to each other like Velcro. Thanks to a recent glut of cool trouser suits in rich, Instagram-friendly shades, velvet seems a far more attractive — and modern — proposition for clothing than it did when Scarlett O'Hara remodelled Miss Ellen's portières.

Draped and languid rather than heavy and frumpy, the LVD will add new depth, not to mention pile, to your wardrobe. The velvet dress isn't the stuff of Camden Market any more — no corsets and no lace collars, thanks very much. Imagine satin you can wear in the day and you'll have a better idea of where the LVD is coming from.

There are many reasons to love the brand Kitri, but the way its founder, Haeni Kim, knows her way around velvet is top of my list. Jumpsuits, trousers and, in particular, an LVD par excellence feature on the website, the last being the Maya wrap midi in

emerald green (£145, kitristudio.com). Just looking at it makes me excited about the sun setting at 3pm: it's a winter wonder dress. Wear with tall boots during the day, with statement ankle boots for drinks or with heels for a Christmas bash. (It also comes in black, but I think colour is key.)

I like Jigsaw's ruched velvet midi for the same reasons. It's simple, elegant and versatile, again in a dark green or a sunflower yellow that would work during the day and at night (£180, jigsaw-online.com).

Boden has plenty to choose from too. The fitted Aubrey style with flared sleeves and the Rebecca maxi are great for party dressing (£170 and £220, boden.co.uk), but it's the Adora that gets my vote for best LVD on the site. This knee-length shift with frilled collar and three-quarter sleeves comes in a gorgeous burnished gold that is evening and office-friendly. Even better, it's a dress that almost begs to be worn with boots and tights — always a plus in my book (£150, boden.co.uk).

& Other Stories's slit-back golden LVD does a similar job, but is a mini rather than a midi (the long sleeves balance out the hemline, so don't worry). My preference is for the label's

more unusual rose pink velvet wrap, which falls to just above the ankle (£69 and £110, both stories.com). I can almost see your expression of disbelief when I say how nice I think the crushed velvet wrap is too, particularly in brown (trust me), and how it would work as a great day dress once Christmas is over and done with (£69, as before).

If you're tall, try the long-sleeved turtleneck midi — the slit up the side stops it looking too much like a monk's habit (£59, as before).

What else to say, other than beware velvet on velvet; you'll need to undercut the sumptuousness of your LVD with some rather less tactile accessories. For the most modern party look, try your LVD with white trainers and jewelled Isabelle Fox Greta pouch bag (£70, isabellefox.com).

Or, if you're still on the fence, introduce velvet slowly: Penelope Chilvers's heeled Cubana ankle boots are the most-worn plushy item in my wardrobe (£269, penelopechilvers.com) and work with everything from cocktail dresses to jeans.

Twitter: @harrywalkerl