

# Hot to trot

Ruched riding boot, \$249.99 at Aldo



- photo submitted

(on models) Miss Sheridan long-sleeve T-shirt, \$36.95; Miss Filly Frenzy hoodie, \$39.95, and Beanie Toque, \$22.95 – all by Miss Filly at [www.missfilly.com](http://www.missfilly.com)

It's back in the saddle again as equestrian is a strong trend for fall.

It seems like every couple of seasons fashion falls hard for horses. A riding hat gallops down the runway (the topper of choice at both the Balenciaga and Dsquared fall/winter shows) and suddenly we're all clamouring to get groomed in harness-style accessories and knee-high, low-heeled leather boots.

So what's with the recurring horse-and-pony style show?

Heather O'Hara, of Miss Filly ([www.missfilly.com](http://www.missfilly.com)) creates a line of T-shirts, tanks, toques and hoodies branded with her leggy filly logo, and says a special bond exists between horse and woman. So it's no surprise hooves and heels are both firmly planted in fashion.

"The horse itself is such an elegant, breathtaking, awe-inspiring creature. And there's something so tactile and sensual about the material, the leather and the metal, and the sound it makes when it all clanks together," says O'Hara.

"Then there's that whole sort of elite aspect to it," she says, alluding to the history of English gentry men and women who keep horses as an amusing pastime. "Horses equal rich, equals high fashion."

Indeed, haute house Hermès (of which Vancouver now boasts its own store) began as a saddle shop in Paris' horsey quarter of the Grand Boulevards in 1837. And Gucci's iconic horsebit and stirrup motifs both nod to equine upper class.

But while O'Hara did own a pony when she was four, she assures us her line is more playful than posh. And with horseshoe and huntsman patterns, leather belts and boots a mane event for fall, even those of us who are only in stirrups but once a year (and at the gynecologist's, at that) can put a little giddy-up in our gait.

- Carly Krug, 24 hours



Riding boot with buckle, \$269.99 at Aldo



Nokomis pony top, \$59 at Dream



Borne horseshoe bow blouse, \$220 at The Block



Borne tweed jacket, \$435 at The Block



Belt buckle, \$75 at The Block

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