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# BAG LADY



**BAG**  
\$449  
Charlotte's Bag

## INSPIRATION COMES NATURALLY FOR CAIRNS' OWN HANDBAG DESIGNER

**W**hat a year 2009 has been for one Cairns fashion designer. Her first collection, 70s Glam, was launched earlier this year to critical acclaim and her designs are about to be launched into the stratosphere.

Silvia Tavares, Brazilian by birth but Australian by nature, launched her second collection of creatively designed handbags and clutches, titled Botanical Luxe, at Mercedes Benz Fashion Week (MBFW) in Brisbane late last month.

She was generous enough to give CAIRNSEYE a sneak peek of what we can expect to see hanging from the arms of fashionistas everywhere.

Since our first story about Silvia in the magazine in January, her creations have been featured in national magazines *Who* and *Grazia* and are now stocked in the hottest boutiques throughout the nation.

Earlier in the year she attended Fashion Exposed in Sydney, a design fair, where she learnt she had to be prepared.

In April she heard about a fashion forum in Cairns which led to her appearance at MBFW. "I was really sick and my husband said

to me 'you have to go. It could be a good opportunity'," Silvia reflects.

"I didn't really understand why they were here but at the end they said they had application forms for new designers to go to Fashion Week but you had to have a look book and press releases.

"Then it got to the date they were supposed to be announcing who was going and I didn't get the phone call until about 6.30pm, so I was very nervous. But when I heard, I was over the moon. I was so happy."

This was the first show she has styled herself, though she has been to plenty before, particularly in Brazil.

"It's very different watching it to putting it together yourself," Silvia says. "I guess I just have to trust my instincts."

She describes her new range, Botanical Luxe, as a celebration of all things nature.

While some of the Kinin signatures remain, she says the colours in this latest collection are more subtle and can be worn by anyone, anytime and with any outfit.

"From my office I can see trees and sometimes the Ulysses butterflies and some of the other beautiful nature that we have

up here. I wanted to create a collection that is inspired by nature and helps people remember the beautiful things in life," she says.

Silvia's love of butterflies comes through in the rainbow of colours that appear throughout the collection, adding a whimsical touch to the summer palette the range offers.

The diverse shapes and styles of the Botanical Luxe collection ensures those looking for a truly unique, distinctive piece will not be disappointed.

Kinin's latest designer offering ranges from smaller cases and wallets to large handbags and laptop cases, all made with the highest quality leather and displaying Kinin's trademark love heart and leather tassel and polkadot lining.

Silvia credits time travelling the world as the main source of inspiration for her designs.

Ever since she was a little girl, Silvia always has always had a passion for handbags. After completing a design course at FBI Fashion College in Sydney four years ago, she returned to Cairns and after undertaking extensive training in leather craftsmanship and launched the label.



### find it...

Items from the collection are available from Vanessa's in Cairns, The Tribune boutique in Brisbane as well as other stores in Victoria, Sydney and online.