

Photo by Marni Rothschild Durlach



Annie Van Harlingen is a gem of a jetsetter.

The designer's travels to Thailand, India, Brazil and beyond tempted her to jazz up the American jewelry market. A Fashion Institute of Technology grad, Annie gathered gemstones to create a fashionable and affordable collection. "I felt like there was a niche missing for precious and semi-precious cocktail rings." Her website and The Spa at Charleston Place carry that new niche: Van H. "I try to pull little ideas from the cultures of the countries that I go to and sprinkle them into the collection somehow." When she's not abroad, she bounces between her studio in New York City and her house on Sullivan's Island, so her selection features the bright blues, greens, and yellows popular to the South, plus the textured stones and darker tones that her northern clients crave. She says jewelry never gets old for men or women regardless of where they live. "They love to layer and add on and sometimes over-do, and I love that."



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Sally Robinson travels underwater.

Whether off the shores of Charleston or in the Caribbean, the owner of Charleston Scuba sets her sights on what's under the sea. "Diving is actually a lifestyle," she says. Sally adapted to it 23 years ago, moving from marine biology to scuba instruction after her husband opened the business in a male-dominated diving industry. Now, she sees certification as a source of strength for female clients. "They get this feeling of confidence: Yes, they can dive, yes they can find the right buddy, yes they can continue to be certified at different levels, yes, they can be a dive master and yes, they can become an instructor." Last year, she revised the divers' destination options and signed up a women-only group for the inaugural Goddess Trip to Little Cayman. They added feminine touches with tiaras, blinking diamond rings, and a photo shoot. "When I go and travel with them, it's like a moveable party."

Photo by Alice Keeney



Miranda Marshall turns naughty into nice.

The owner of Guilty Pleasures grew up around her family’s book and magazine distributing company in the adult industry, and now she sells love-life enhancers from lingerie, to lube, to liberator furniture. “The reality is that everybody has sex. Why do we have to hide it or be ashamed of it?” Miranda has her own guilty pleasure—she fell in love with Alaska years ago on a business trip and often maintains the store on Ashley Phosphate Road in North Charleston from her summer home. “You can do business anywhere. All you have to have is a phone and Wi-Fi connection.” And no matter where she is, she makes clients comfortable with the way they spice up their own connections. She markets guilty pleasures as guilt-free purchases, particularly for women. “It’s not weird, it’s just different. What you do in your bedroom is your business.”