

# Diesel unveils spring-summer range at Indigo

While the global brand's spring-summer-2008 collection was being paraded, two words screamed out from Diesel's runway: new rave. While Diesel has traditionally targeted the 18-to-35s market, this new line shifts the focus to the 15-to-25s bracket.

The women's line in particular was reminiscent of a style propelled into the mainstream by new-rave bands, such as the Klaxons, and their devoted followers.

In the women's range, neon colors, off-the-shoulder tops and baseball caps drew a lot of the attention. Brightly colored hot-pants and over-sized belts also made appearances, but the real standout was the faded floral dress.

Floral prints are becoming increasingly popular, but it was bold of Diesel to show a dress that reeks of 60s' "flower power".

The dress accentuates the bust while flowing formlessly below down to the ankles. It created a look, but did no favors to the model wearing the dress.

French Connection and Oasis both have more-appealing floral dresses on the market this season. While some designers have applied a 50s' retro look to

An elegant ensemble of guests were on March 27 treated to delightful finger food and drinks at the Indigo Pearl Resort before being treated to a glimpse of Diesel's spring/summer range for 2008.

The *Gazette's* Matt Crook was there to separate the black from the white as the colorful concoctions flowed down the catwalk.



their spring-summer offerings, Diesel's, at times, harps back to a decade later.

Also prevalent were silver

high-set boots. Rising to just below the knee, this moon-walking footwear was an effective contrast to the bright colors used in a number of the tops. The boots were one of the items that really stood out as being sexy.

In keeping with the youthful appeal of the range, Diesel adorned several female models

with caps either splashed with neon colors or just plain. The caps looked dated, but the women's headbands created interest.

Wide headbands have come and gone over the years, but combined with Diesel's less-outlandish designs, they added a mysterious chic.

At times, the combinations

used in the women's outfits looked hastily thrown together. This lazy, mismatched look worked occasionally or else truly harked back to new rave, where anything goes in terms of clothing combos.

Where Diesel's range looked best was with simple, plain outfits and patterns, such as the use of worsted fabric that gelled perfectly with the high-set boots. The less color Diesel used, the more appealing the look was.

The men's lines also incorporated worsted fabrics, along with low-neck vests and understated jackets. The men's clothing worked better than the women's because the items seemed somehow more casual and less overdone. Patterns ranged from stripes and camouflage through to occasional hints of the more garish look that Diesel went for with its women's items.


Pants were hung low, which at times appeared juvenile. Diesel's latest range will appeal to a broad span of ages, although perhaps less so to over-30s.

The music at the pre- and after-show parties was a telling sign of what Diesel tried to do. Electro-clash, indie-tronica, new rave - call it what you will, it's all

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**Diesel's spring-summer-2008 range features everything from neon caps and off-the-shoulder tops to low-hung jeans and floral dresses.**

**The models pose after showcasing what Diesel hopes we will all be wearing this summer.**



electro and it's all vogue. It isn't, however, new and so Diesel's Phuket offering felt trendy, but lacked any resemblance of being cutting edge.

Although Diesel is famed for its denim, there was little of it on display in Phuket. The fashion show was well received and the audience bubbled with excitement. With so many standout hotels, resorts and locations on the island, fashion labels could gain a lot from traveling to Phuket. Hopefully, there will be more in the future from Diesel and other labels.

Diesel's spring-summer range has, according to the press release, been inspired by deep-sea aquatic life. The entire range, of which only a snippet was shown in Phuket, comprises silhouettes and colors that are said to suit urban and suburban lifestyles.

"Pale-blue washed jeans, air-light texture shirts and black-and-white fitted denim" are just some of the designs that can be found in Diesel's first-floor boutique store at Central Festival.

For more information call the Diesel store at Central Festival Phuket at 076-249864.

**Catwalk calamity of fantastic fashion? The 100 or so in attendance watch as Diesel shows off its latest lines.**