



Über Finds



Daphne Jewelry

There's more to shopping than giant malls, brand names, and mass-market goods. With a little help from our friends, we've come up with a list of "secret" sources for fashion, food, and furniture

Word of Mouth

fashion


Cheap & Chic 1. Designer Soiree brings the concept of designer sample sales to Manila, with by-invitation-only shopping events. With trade access to showroom factories abroad, these samples are sold up to 70% off retail price. They focus on popular brands not available in the Philippines, like 3.1 Phillip Lim, Catherine Malandrino, Tory Burch, and Miu Miu.

2. Like thrift shopping but don't have the patience to wade through overflowing bins and racks? Go to **Über Finds**, which has a choice selection of pre-owned clothes from Europe, Singapore, and Hong Kong at bargain prices. You'll find luxury brands like Fendi, Anna Sui, and Dior. Special pieces such as Louis Vuitton, Chanel, and Gucci shoes and bags may be viewed by appointment only.

3. Attention, jeans lovers! **Defacto** can customize a pair for you any way you want. You pick the cut, fabric, threading/stitching, and pocket design. It's made to your measurements, so it'll fit perfectly. "For a guy like me who wears jeans everyday, Defacto's great," says photographer Miguel Nacianceno. Prices start at P1,500.

Beautiful Bling 4. For a special gift for your mom, mom-in-law, or yourself, **Binky's Beads'** lovely necklaces and bracelets are made of semi-precious stones such as turquoise, agate, and jade. Clasps are sterling silver. Designer Binky Ilusorio can even accommodate requests, depending on material availability. Bracelets start at P1,900; necklaces at P2,500.

5. Vintage-style medallions are given a stylish twist by **Daphne Jewelry**. Inspired by religious pendants worn by turn-of-the-century Filipinas, *Urban Zone* host Daphne Oseña-Paez sources hand-painted enamel medallions in Europe and sets them in 14k gold. They are then combined with semi-precious stones and charms to make one-of-a-kind necklaces and bracelets. It's an investment that can be handed down to the next generation.

6. **Jewel Thief** designer Marly Laraya creates eye-catching pieces using pearls and precious stones set in silver or vermeil. Her cocktail rings, cuffs, and necklaces are handcrafted by artisans down to the most intricate detail. Signature pieces are "very Florentine" free-form cuffs of ornate silverwork with baroque pearls highlighted with accent stones. Prices range from P6,500 for a cocktail ring to P34,000 for a silver cuff. 



A11



Binky's Beads



MinSeasons

Outlets! Outlets! Outlets!

shouldn't miss these outlets for athletic shoes and gear. Interior designer Lisa Salvador loves **Sports Warehouse**, "where I can find brands like Adidas, Keds, Converse, Fila, and New Balance on sale up to 40% off!" she says. And if you're loyal to the swoosh, head to the **Nike Clearance Sale**, which also carries past collections of Benetton, Sisley, and Gas up to 70% off.

8. More into girly shoes? The **Schu factory outlet** has select items from past seasons at 50 to 70% off. Prices range from as low as P399 for heels, ballet flats, and more.

9. If you lust after—but can't afford—current-season items from **Paul Smith** or **Dot Dot Dot**, cross your fingers that the object of your desire will end up in their warehouse (of course, you also run the risk of never seeing it again...). Here you'll find past-season items from Paul Smith, Ben Sherman, Eley Kishimoto, See by Chloé, McQ by Alexander McQueen, and other designer brands, all marked down. By appointment only.

food

Homemade Pastries

1. **Homemade by Roshan** is the secret weapon of Manila's party hosts. Bestsellers include Surprise Cupcakes (cupcakes with chocolate icing and a custard filling, P575/dozen) Ghirardelli Chocolate Chip Cookies (P600/dozen). Other popular favorites are Nutella Chocolate Chip Cookies (P650/dozen), Belgian White Macadamia Cookies (P900/16 pcs), Good Ol' Fashioned Chocolate Cake (P1050), and Mango Crepe Samurai (P1150, serves 12-15).

2. **Tina Ansaldo-Cruz** makes the most divine Dulce de Leche cake—it's very moist and has hints of coconut and pineapple, topped with a generous amount of dulce de leche icing that will make you swoon!

Chocoholics Delight

3. If you've ever been seduced by a brownie, only to be disappointed by its dry, crumbly texture, treat yourself to **Superfudge**, a moist, fudgy brownie deliciously studded with chocolate chips. Tip: Pop it into the microwave for 10 seconds for a melt-in-your-mouth treat, or top with ice cream.

4. Have you been missing the **Theobroma** stand in Shangri-la Plaza? Take heart, the sinfully rich chocolate concoctions still exist! Alongside their signature pralines and best-selling ice cream, Theobroma now carries Ultimate Flourless Belgian Chocolate Cakes, Theonies (Theobroma Belgian Chocolate-inspired brownies), and Theo-chews (Belgian Chocolate-coated bite-size chews). All chocolate products are Philippine-made, using the finest Belgian ingredients.

Healthy Options

5. Why buy imported when we have local dairy farms churning out fantastic yogurt? Food blogger Johanna de Larrazabal (www.80breakfasts.blogspot.com) recommends **Rizal Dairy Farms' Greek Yogurt** ("the creamiest, local yogurt I've tried") and **Pia Lim-Castillo's carabao's milk yogurt** ("its texture is light but it's rich enough to strain, almost like a ricotta").

6. The Salcedo Market every Saturday is a haven for natural, organic, and healthy cooking ingredients. If you are looking for something for your Thai or Vietnamese (or Mexican... *epazote*, anyone?) dishes, you'll find what you need at the **Herbana Farms** stall.

Picnic & Party Goodies

7. **Miniatures'** bite-size Pan de Mau plain sweet bread (P45/6pcs), hotdogs (P60/6 pcs), and burgers (P75/6pcs) are always a hit at kiddie parties and casual barbecues. Their mini tacos, mini pizzas, cream puffs (P660/72 pcs), and chocolate éclairs (P660/48 pcs), are pop-in-the-mouth perfect!





Hannah Liongoren



Vintage Pop

8. Homemade jams are special and should always be in your pantry. Food and travel blogger Nena Wuthrich (www.gypsysoul73.blogspot.com) shares her many discoveries: **Guava Jelly of Doña María Luz**, made using an old Spanish recipe (“I love it on hot *pandesal* and cheese”); **Tita Loy’s Mango Jam** is all mango, “it’s almost like candy—chewy and delicious, but not overly sweet”; **Kablon Farm’s Mangosteen Jam**, which is excellent as a yogurt topping.

home

Furniture Finds

1. **All** is more of a complete lifestyle store than an ordinary furniture showroom, as the pieces are displayed in three faithfully restored 1940s houses. “Designer Eric Paras’ ‘secret’ spot is tucked away in a genteel, tree-lined compound and is a challenge to find, as they do not have a sign outside,” says *Real Living’s* Rachelle F. Medina. “The furnishings, from sofas and tables to lamps and artwork—all by Filipino designers—are arranged in lovely vignettes in each room.”

2. Daphne Oseña-Paez’s favorite furniture artist is **Benjie Reyes**, who makes wood furniture using old wood and no nails. She says, “A lot copy him, but he’s the original. He has no showroom or website; his house in Antipolo is his showroom.” By appointment only.

Ikea Importers If you travel to Singapore or Hong Kong to get your **Ikea** fix, you’ll be happy to know that you can now source the reasonably priced Scandinavian-style furniture and accessories locally. Check out the Ikea importer nearest you:

3. **Makati**: This is the importer that started it all (and reportedly has the lowest price). They carry a good range of Ikea items like chairs, beds, and desks, as well as kitchenware, children’s items, and roller blinds. They now offer a wardrobe section, where clients can customize their closets according to their needs. Stock is current, shipments arrive every month.

4. **New Manila**: This branch focuses on accessories, but they do accept orders for anything in the Ikea catalog—they’ll add a

shipping fee, and orders come within three weeks, delivered to your doorstep with a delivery charge of P500.

5. **Quezon City**: Buyers shoulder courier cost (customers will receive a quote on delivery cost before confirmation of order). Not all products are featured in the website, so clients are encouraged to drop by the showroom to view the complete selection.

Unique Accents

6. **MinSeasons** is the hush-hush supplier to Manila’s most stylish party hosts. Sourced from Asia, Europe, and the US, bestsellers include lacquer table sets, trays made of eggshell, hand-painted ceramics, hand-embroidered linens, and glass and crystal bar accessories. But here comes the fun part: MinSeasons doesn’t actually have a shop—they have shopping parties! Says partner Ana, “For groups of three or more, we bring our merchandise over so that they can shop in the comfort of their home.” They also hold private, by-invitation-only sales.

7. Tired of the same old paint job or generic wallpaper? **Hannah Liongoren** may be the solution to your wall woes. This artist and freelance graphic designer is a self-described “room invader,” who collaborates with clients to create virtual works of art, using their walls as her canvas. Her designs can go from demure as oriental flowers to quirky as woodland creatures.

Something Old, Something New

8. For vintage radios, phonographs, toys, clocks, and other curios, you’ll love **Vintage Pop**. Owner Bong Salaveria is often on hand to give the history of each object displayed. Some items are from his personal collection, but he may be convinced to part with a piece or two. While you’re there, visit neighbors Pablo for indie art, Sputnik for graphic novels and designer toys, and The Reading Room for funky clothes and accessories.

9. Indie store **Fresh** developed a cult following the moment it opened in 2007. It features urban vinyl toys like Kidrobot and Be@rbricks, as well local and international art. Fresh takes pride in promoting local artists, most recently street artists Pilipinas Street Plan, WeWillDoodle, and Movement69, whose works grace the doors and walls of the newly renovated store.



Original Asian & Philippine antiques
Rare artifacts and jars
Indigenous costume jewelry
Folk crafts, fabrics and
exotic shawls

SOUVENIRS

Antiques & Crafts Gallery

Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio,
Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. Nos. 0920-4628528

Mondays to Saturdays
11 AM to 7 PM

(Special appointments can be arranged)

The List



Word of Mouth Addressbook

Where to get the goodies

fashion

Binky's Beads Contact Binky Ilusorio, tel (2) 724-2222, e-mail bbi1970@yahoo.com. Binky's Beads will be at the US Embassy Club Shoppers' Day Bazaar, Oct 4, World Trade Center

Daphne Jewelry www.daphneosena.com

Defacto Available at V8 Indie Boutique, Unit 112 G/F Mile Long, Amorsolo St., Makati City, tel (2) 818-4708, www.defactory.multiply.com

Designer Soiree Get on their mailing list by sending a text to (+63915) 901-2543 or an e-mail to designerssoiree@gmail.com

Jewel Thief Contact Marly Laraya, tel (+63917) 526-5692, e-mail marly@jewelthief.com.ph, www.jewelthief.com.ph. Select pieces at AC+632, Greenbelt 5

Nike Clearance Sale Global Bank, Dominion Building, Arnaiz Ave., Makati City, tel (2) 894-4214

Paul Smith and Dot Dot Dot warehouse 41 Sta. Maria St., Barangay Kapitolyo, Pasig City, tel (2) 631-9631. By appointment only

Schu Factory Outlet G/f Security Land Bldg., 6797 Ayala Ave. corner VA Rufino St., Salcedo Village, Makati City, tel (2) 840-4924

Sports Warehouse G/f Club Six Fifty, E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City, tel (2) 638-2671

Über Finds 42 Eugenio Lopez Ave. corner Sgt. Esguerra St., South Triangle, Quezon City, tel (2) 799-2434

food

Guava Jelly of Doña Maria Luz 132 Bunga St., Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City, tel (2) 842-1374

Herbana Farms Available at Salcedo Market (every Saturday, Velasquez Car Park, Leviste corner Tordesillas Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City)

Homemade by Roshan Tel (2) 631-7786, www.homemadebyroshan.com

Kablon Farm's Mangosteen Jam Available at the produce section of Market! Market! and Rustan's supermarkets

Miniatures Contact Santi Palanca, tel (+63917) 500-0024 or Mayette Rey, tel (+63917) 817-2125. Order at least a day in advance

Pia Lim-Castillo Tel (2) 729-3265, e-mail foodtravel@mac.com

Rizal Dairy Farms' Greek Yogurt Available at Market! Market! produce section and Salcedo Market

Superfudge Contact Chinggay, tel (+63917) 811-1034

Theobroma 17 Aguirre Ave., BF Homes, Parañaque, tel (2) 842-6265; Festival Supermall; SM City North Edsa; Robinsons Midtown Manila

Tina Ansaldo-Cruz Dulce de Leche Tel (2) 824-2643

Tita Loy's Mango Jam Tel (2) 896-5438

home

A11 2680 FB Harrison St., Pasay City, tel (2) 832-9972, e-mail a_eleven05@yahoo.com

Benjie Reyes Tel (+63918) 9412053. By appointment only

Fresh 5 Sgt. Esguerra St. corner Timog Ave., Quezon City, tel (2) 412-8786, www.freshmanila.multiply.com, www.freshmanila.blogspot.com. Select merchandise available at Domani, Renaissance Makati City Hotel Manila

Hannah Liongoren Tel (+63917) 896-4710, www.hannahliongoren.com.

Ikea Makati Home Furnishings, 3/f Eastman Bldg., 4977 Enrique St. Palanan, Makati City, tel (2) 833-5590, e-mail rooms101@gmail.com, www.rooms101.multiply.com.

Ikea New Manila 23A Calgary Hills St. Rolling Hills, 9th St., New Manila, Quezon City, tel (2) 412 3112, tel (2) 412-3112, www.newmanila23.multiply.com.

Ikea Quezon City 120 Kamias Rd., Quezon City, tel (+63920) 927-6514, e-mail ikeaph@gmail.com, www.ikeaph.multiply.com.

MinSeasons Contact Ana, tel (+63917) 526-6551 or Cat, tel (+63917) 536-9283

Vintage Pop Cubao X (formerly Marikina Shoe Expo), Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City, tel (+63918) 500-3460 ■