



Small collections in a diversity of styles makes Catherine H a true boutique. — Gus Cantavero photos

CATHERINE H ... A UNIQUE BOUTIQUE

Distinctive design, tailored fine

by Robin E. Glowa

The perfect outfit can make a woman feel like a princess, a power broker, a fun, flirty vision of femininity or captivatingly and comfortably chic.

But how does one pull off the perfect look if there are no stellar selections to be found in the closet? If you're lamenting the lack of interesting outfits that make you look and feel fabulous, perhaps it's time to inject new life into your lackluster apparel.

Shopping for attire that is distinctive and diverse can be quite challenging. When you are seeking garments that are fashion-forward, cutting-edge and unique to reflect all aspects of your personality, you need a special shopping experience.

Catherine H, a marvelous boutique in Milford, is the perfect place to replenish a wilted wardrobe. This little gem of a shop features gorgeous clothing and accessories. The warm and gracious owner, Catherine Hiriart Kubic, has assembled a distinctive collection of beautifully designed, exquisitely detailed clothing with a decidedly different flair.

As Catherine welcomes you into her shop, you instantly feel her joy and enthusiasm. Guiding you through the store, she gently suggests which lovely garments you might like to try on, and you know you are in the hands of someone who truly cares about how you will look and feel in the clothes. In Catherine's capable hands you will experience the wonder of working with your own wardrobe stylist.

After working in boutiques and dressing store windows from New York City to New Haven, Catherine is ecstatic to have opened her business in Milford. "I am having such fun," she says with a captivating smile. "I am so excited to have my own store where I get to sell what my clientele wants."

Her greatest pleasure is to find just the right clothing. "I do all my homework," she says, searching for the perfect items from designers here in the United States, as well as in Australia, Spain, France and Italy.

Catherine, who grew up in Europe, came to the United States 28 years ago to learn English. Influenced by her European upbringing and a wonderfully stylish mother,

Catherine developed a highly critical eye and appreciation of all things exquisitely crafted. A deep love of beauty and respect for the natural world has Catherine seeking out designers who are not only tremendously talented but who are eco-conscious as well.

"I think it's so important to have clothing in the shop that utilizes natural fibers and is organic. There are not enough organic lines yet, but this is changing. One of the lines I offer is Stewart & Brown, made right here in Connecticut. They use only organic wool and natural dyes for their clothes. It's amazing — there is no itching from this organic wool. I have always been allergic to wool, but not with this line."

Catherine continues, saying, "I also carry Raw Earth Wild Sky; this is a line of organic cotton clothing made in Los Angeles by 12 women designers. What's wonderful about their line is the relaxed, casual look, with a lot of elegance. I just love this line, so feminine and hugs the curves in all the right places."

Catherine passionately pursues designs for her boutique that are well-made. "I try to find designers who design and tailor well. I research online and go to all the shows, so I get to know the designers. I am offering both casual and dressy clothing for women up to size 22, and I absolutely insist on the best-fitting designs possible. I would rather not sell something than have it not look absolutely right," Catherine says emphatically.

"I am looking for the pieces that will make each woman look and feel wonderful. A lot of clothes are made that people can fit into but do not necessarily perfectly

enhance the body. I offer clothing that makes my clients say, 'This is different; this is really me,' which is so exciting for them and for me," she says.

"When I do the buying," Catherine says, "I have to fall in love with it. No one can talk me into it! I only buy a little bit of everything, so you won't see the same clothes on everyone!"

With her discerning eye for detail, Catherine has filled her boutique with breathtaking outfits that are both classic and ultra-modern. An ecru leather motorcycle jacket is edgy and romantic; a black-lace trench coat is ultra feminine and completely one of a kind; a shimmering silk dress constructed of layer upon layer of pewter metallic ruffles is super sexy and, believe it or not, hand-washable! There are dresses and tops in such luscious, lively shades as turquoise, coral and chartreuse.

Catherine also offers fabulous accessories, such as buttery soft leather belts crafted in Canada; amazing handbags, like the one in bright, cherry red suede, embellished with silver studs and silver-beaded fringe; sleek, handmade leather totes; huge, chunky rings; bold cuff bracelets and stunning necklaces dripping with unusual charms and semi-precious stones.

From blue jeans to cocktail dresses, handbags to hoodies, you will find a sublime collection of style at Catherine H.

Catherine H. is at 19 River Street in Milford; 203-783-3037; Web, catherineh.com. Hours: Closed Mon., Tues.-Sat. 11 to 5:30, Thurs. 11-7:30; Sun. 12-4. Available for private showings by appointment.

