

Charlotte Olympia opens store at Bal Harbour Shops; Nicholas Kirkwood opens pop-up shop

Charlotte Olympia opens at Bal Harbour Shops on Friday, her first store in the Southeast and third in the country; Nicholas Kirkwood just opened a pop-up store, too.

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By Ina Paiva Cordle



Two of London's newest, hottest shoe designers, whose stilettos and sandals have adorned the feet of countless celebrities, are stepping into Bal Harbour Shops.

Charlotte Olympia Dellal, who launched her brand in 2008, will open her first Charlotte Olympia store in the Southeast on Friday, on the shopping center's second floor. It will be the luxury shoe and accessories designer's third store nationwide, after New York and Beverly Hills.

And Nicholas Kirkwood launched a pop-up shop earlier this month, on the high-end shopping center's first floor, also marking his first solo-shop debut in the region.

"Miami definitely marks a kind of milestone in the development of our brand in America," said Dellal, 32, speaking by telephone from London. "It's definitely a market to build our business in America."

Dellal, whose mother is Brazilian, said she has visited Miami several times. "When I go to Miami I hear Portuguese spoken left, right and center, so from that perspective, it's a melting pot for international travelers."

In addition to her regular line of shoes and handbags, Dellal said she has created a special Miami capsule collection for the Bal Harbour store that embodies the spirit of South Florida. Spring/summer styles include an embroidered flamingo raffia wedge, and a clutch with wide awning stripes. The color palette also is keyed to Art Deco and candy-colored hues, like pinks, greens and blues, she said. Overall, bags range from \$395 to \$1,295; shoes, from \$645 to \$1,095.

Miami's role as an international shopping destination also made the area a draw for Kirkwood, who is known for designs that are sophisticated, artsy and whimsical. His women's shoes range from about \$395 to \$1,395.

Kirkwood, who launched his brand in 2005, disclosed during Footwear News CEO Summit 2013 that he was visiting sites in Miami's Design District and Bal Harbour, with hopes of opening a retail store by the end of 2014. In the United States, Kirkwood also has shops in New York and Las Vegas.

"We have a great customer here, with a lot of South Americans," Kirkwood said last May. "They like style. They like color. Miami is a fun city, and people like to dress up."

Both designers have a strong celebrity following, including such Charlotte Olympia fans as Beyoncé, Taylor Swift, Jennifer Lawrence, Olivia Wilde and Sarah Jessica Parker. The two luxury designers' shoes can also be found at high-end department stores like Neiman Marcus and Bergdorf Goodman, as well as such online sites as Net-a-Porter.com.

Brett French, director of leasing for Whitman Family Development, which owns Bal Harbour Shops, said the center is excited to be Charlotte Olympia's third foray into the United States as well as to welcome the Nicholas Kirkwood pop-up.

"We always try to curate the shopping center so that it is most responsive to what a customer wants, and the best way to figure out what they want is what they buy," said Matthew Whitman Lazenby, president and chief executive of Whitman Family Development. "What is newest and hottest is newest and hottest. We didn't go out and scour the world for the best shoe store but for who is most relevant today. And we think the answer includes Nicholas Kirkwood and Charlotte Olympia."

Read more here: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2014/04/16/4063614/charlotte-olympia-opens-store.html#storylink=cpy>