

# VOGUE

APR

## THE SHAPE ISSUE

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THIN, CURVY, OR  
PREGNANT**

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# Jennifer Aniston

"Don't Feel Sorry for Me!"



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strapless, by Oscar de la Renta for Donald Trump, Jr.'s, wedding. At more casual events she adapts her non-pregnant look: a Catherine Malandrino smock and jeans for a Lakers game, a gray turtleneck and pants to a New York lunch, together with a lot of fur or fur-trimmed wraps by her beloved Basso, which act as discreet and glamorous cover-ups.

"The wraps frame the shoulder line and the face, so the whole visual goes to the shoulder, and the rest kind of cascades down in front," says Basso, who remarks that Melania has been able to maintain a style he characterizes as "ladylike with a sexy edge" even in her pregnancy. "In the evening she's worn a lot of off-the-shoulder looks, and I always find that a very pretty line, pregnant or not. Or it's an Empire dress that floats to the knee, which under normal circumstances might not be sexy, but she's paired it with a wonderful sexy sandal. There's a lot going on top and bottom, and it gives a very nice visual proportion."

Another of Melania's favorites, Marc Bouwer, notes the importance of bosom and cleavage for Melania, and the fact that "she focuses on things that fit directly under the bust. The upper rib cage is usually the smallest part of a woman's body, and if there's any kind of tummy issue you can create curves in the fabric. She's very specific in what she likes and has a very sharp eye. This is a woman who really knows clothes."

A few days later, I'm sitting on the Trump jet drinking Trump water and admiring a blue-chip painting above my head. Donald, in the same persimmon tie, and Melania, in a hip-length hooded mink jacket and cords, are bound for their last pre-baby weekend at Mar-a-Lago, the Trumps' house-cum-resort, built with great lavishness and panache by Marjorie Merriweather Post in the twenties. Here they will serve as hosts and she as a goodwill ambassador at the annual Red Cross ball. (More synergy: The ballroom Donald threw \$42 million into building for his wedding to Melania fifteen months ago is starting to pay its way as a high-end, high-capacity events venue.) Melania's had a hectic day dealing with a technical problem with the baby Trump's curtains, and is looking forward to a little R&R between evening engagements.

In the extra-roomy Mercedes Maybach limo that whisks the Trumps from the tarmac, Donald discusses the newly announced Ellen Barkin-Ron Perelman split ("He told me she's a Bohemian. I don't think you'd have gotten along with her, honey") and Perelman's sale of his own palazzo in this neighborhood of possibly the most expensive real estate in the world. As the Mar-a-Lago tower curves into view among the twinkling lights of Palm Beach, Donald takes in the vista and says, half statement, half question, "It's beautiful, honey."

"It's beautiful," Melania coos back.

Donald, needless to say, appreciates being surrounded by beauty. He describes his wife as "beautiful inside and out" and, beyond that, as having "an amazing wisdom. She's extremely calm under pressure. She could walk into a room under the most adverse of circumstances and be fine." This particular quality has

come in very handy in Palm Beach, whose rigid social matrons can close ranks at the whiff of an aspirant. "Melania sort of managed the Palm Beach scene the same way she managed Donald," says Shannon Donnelly, diarist of the *Palm Beach Daily News*, and hence queen of the social scene, who has declared herself a huge fan of the new Mrs. Trump. "She stayed quietly in the background, was there when he needed her, was always a very nice, unassuming presence. She didn't push, she didn't claw, she didn't stick herself out there, and now everyone's in love with her."

The Red Cross ball is a colorful affair and rife with Palm Beach intrigue to do with who's in and who's out behind the scenes of the event, and whose important noses have therefore been put out of joint. Of the many crimson-clad ladies present, one describes how she left her dress on a plane, it flew around awhile, got locked in a closet, and she was able to locate it only after consulting the spoon-bending psychic Uri Geller. Melania, by contrast, wears a long, strapless baby-pink dress made for her by Vera Wang, and a large quantity of diamonds, without which one needn't set foot in Palm Beach in the first place. Her skin is glowing from a session with one of her secret weapons: Tammy Fender, an out-of-this-world local facialist who makes her own holistic products based on essential oils. Oxygen facials, long walks on the beach, and light yoga and Pilates once or twice a week have been the basis of her pregnancy health-and-beauty regimen. After being introduced



#### STERLING STYLE

Melania in Marc Bouwer at the unveiling of the latest Cadillac Escalade in New York City last November.

by the ball chairman as "the most beautiful pregnant woman I've ever seen," she steps up to the stage and gives a charming little speech thanking all the right people, modest, gracious, and correct. She's like Princess Diana, without the problems.

When you spend time around Melania, you hear a lot of celebrity comparisons. "She's like a young Sophia Loren" being one of the most frequent, probably because of the plunging cleavage. But you couldn't cast Melania in a biopic. She plays herself too well. If you had to compare her to any one screen goddess it would be, apparently, a vintage Bond girl. The next day, Melania good-naturedly submits to gold body paint

Fashion has been kind to Melania, since Empire waists, as well as baby dolls, were big this season

as she poses for *Vogue* in a gold bikini on the steps of the Trump jet before flying home. Her fellow passengers scrutinize the Polaroids. Jeanine Pirro, the former Westchester D.A. who made a failed bid to run against Hillary Clinton in New York, arrives in a leopard-print jacket and shoes and admires the composition. "The stairway kind of looks like the birth canal," she suggests. Donald is pleased that a wind machine was used, so that everyone could see he doesn't wear a hairpiece, as has sometimes unkindly been alleged. Melania herself is cool about the whole thing. "I think it's very sexy for a woman to be pregnant," she remarks. "I think it's beautiful, carrying a baby inside. What is more beautiful?"

She snuggles against her husband in a blanket to watch his own favorite movie star of all time, Audrey Hepburn in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, the store above which Trump Tower so emphatically soars. All's well in Trump World, and the new baby Trump will be a very lucky child indeed. □