



ONE-PIECE, \$149.95 (6-14), Tigerlily, (02) 8228 8000.
NECKLACE, \$198, Samantha Wills, (02) 9693 1353.

\$39.95, Sunnlyfe, (03) 9421 6325.



It's in the bag
Unless it's a sandcastle, structure is strictly prohibited beachside - which is why you'll be carting your wares to the shore in a casual slouchy tote. Anything with metal detailing will suffer with all that salt and sand, so look for wash 'n' wear bags that love the surf as much as you do.

\$29.95, Rip Curl, (03) 5261 0064.



\$69.95, Insight, (02) 9662 8838.



\$49.95, Von Zipper, (07) 5589 9890.



\$69.95, Golf Punk, (03) 9481 9911.



\$59.95, Stussy, 1800 132 780.



\$79.95, Mooks, 1800 132 780.



Compact folding speakers, \$49, Motorola, 1300 138 823.

Sounds and surf

Afraid of getting sand in your iPod? Leave it at home and grab a pair of these implausibly compact speakers. They plug directly into your mobile, fit in like a dream in your beach bag, and for under \$50, it's not the end of the world if the sticky-fingered 15-year-old on the next towel takes a liking to them.

Don't sacrifice SPF

So you want to be a bronzed goddess - nothing new about that. What is new is the cache of **instant bronzers** that now come with **in-built sun protection**. They're



no sunscreen replacement but they're a darn sight better than no protection at all. You know what they say - if you've got it, flaunt it; if you're flaunting it, **put some SPF on it.**

Clinique Self-sun Radiant Bronze Tinted Self-Tanner SPF 15, \$31, 1800 061 326, clinique.com.au.

[web buy](http://web.buy)



[web buy](http://web.buy)

Towels that do more

Phones that take videos, tanners that moisturise, gifts with purchase - we all want stuff that does more. Which is why this year, we're all warm and fuzzy for **beach towels with oomph**. From towels for two to towels with pockets for your keys and even built-in headrests, choose a **drying implement with serious personality**.

- 1. \$59.95, Canningvale, 1800 801 728. 2. \$49.95, Sunnlylife, (03) 9421 6325. 3. \$69.95, Sunnlylife, (03) 9421 6325.
- 4. \$49.95, Rip Curl, (03) 5261 0064. 5. \$29.95, Kmart, 1800 634 251. 6. \$99.95, Arthur Galan for Sunnlylife, (03) 9421 6325. 7. \$175, My Island Home, (02) 9362 8760, myislandhome.com.au.



BIKINI, \$69.95 (8-14), Billabong, (07) 5589 9899.
NECKLACE, \$9.95, Diva, (02) 9938 3311.

The SHOP team flew to Rome, Italy courtesy of Thai Airways International, 1300 651 960, thaiairways.com.au. Thanks to Infinity Amalfi Coast Travel, infinity-amalficoast.com, and Villa Maria Hotel, Ravello, +39 (0) 8985 7255, villamaria.it.



Candace Bushnell
The bestselling author of *Six and the City*
and *Queen Bees & Wannabes!*

SOPHIE KINSELLA



Confessions of a Shopaholic by Sophie Kinsella (Random House), \$24.95, from Dymocks Booksellers, 1300 396 625.

The best beach reads of 2009

A good book makes a day at the beach the perfect relaxation technique. Right now, we're absorbed in **One Fifth Avenue** - truly, the creative mind behind a woman like Carrie Bradshaw can do no wrong. This one sees the rich residents of a Greenwich Village apartment block clash when an elderly socialite dies and leaves her prime real estate up for grabs. After that, we're reaching for **Playing the Game**, an equally salacious tome that follows the adventures of Belle and her life as a London call girl - just the thing for a long hot summer days. Then there's **Confessions of a Shopaholic**. This quirky little book had us at the first terrifyingly familiar paragraph, and it's the one we'll be passing around the office all summer long. We recommend you indulge in the frivolity before the movie hits cinemas in February.

Playing the Game by Belle de Jour (Orion), \$32.99, from Dymocks Booksellers, 1300 396 625.

One Fifth Avenue by Candace Bushnell (Little, Brown), \$32.99, from Dymocks Booksellers, 1300 396 625.



Shady lady

Not since Audrey Hepburn twirled a broly in *My Fair Lady* have parasols been so must-have. We're pretty sure **beach umbrellas are here to stay** - what with the hole in the ozone layer and everything - so make yours an investment that will go the distance and look utterly magnificent while doing it. Stake out your place on the sand with retro prints, bold block hues and bright florals.

\$79.95, Sunnlyfe, (03) 9421 6325.

\$40, Shelta from Wild Reeds, (02) 9699 2300.

\$99.95, Suboo, (02) 9211 6457.

\$250, My Island Home, (02) 9362 8760.

\$280, Rumurella, (02) 9557 8242.