

TRIBEZA Pick

smart shopping in houston



Photography Bill Krampitz

ABEJAS5600 Kirby, S-4
(713) 522 3025

Since opening its doors in 2000, Abejas (Spanish for "bees") has acquired a cult following among Houston style mavens—and once you step inside this cozy Rice Village-area boutique it's easy to see what all the "buzz" is about. The color-coordinated racks run the gamut from wardrobe staple-worthy Clu tees to an on-trend Graham and Spencer sequined tank dress.

The eclectic offerings reflect the personal style of owner Christina Nicodemus, who admits that she opened Abejas to selfishly expand her own closet. "When I go to market I buy things that I'd wear," she says. "That could be anything from a cheap little top to a \$500 pair of pants." But Nicodemus is quick to caution that Abejas isn't a label-driven business: "It's more about a look. I hate to say it's bohemian because that word is totally overused, but it is—organic, textured, bohemian chic."

Expect to find pieces by Kristensen du Nord, Rozae Nichols, and current in-house favorite Daft Bird, along with an impressive selection of denim from hip designers like J Brand and Hudson Jeans. Be sure to check out the Miel de

Abejas wholesale division, which includes customized antique diamond shakers (which Nicodemus deems "crazy good") and über popular leather flip-flops (look for new styles in python and calf hair to debut in the spring).

Want to do a little good while getting your fashion fix? Buy a Bee Tee—emblazoned with the Abejas logo—and \$5 will go to a recovery fund for Julia Graening, a young girl suffering from an immune deficiency disorder; or host a shopping party and Abejas will donate a portion of the proceeds to the charity of your choice. Last year alone the boutique raised more than \$30,000 for various charities.

And although Abejas has an exceptional website (www.abejasboutique.com), you don't want to miss out on the experience of in-store shopping with its glammed-out dressing rooms, its luxuriously scented diffusers, and—arguably the best part—its famously friendly staff. "I think it's a really special place," Nicodemus says. "It's not hoity-toity or snooty, it's real—like the clothes we sell. That's what gives us our success year after year." **H. Hablinski**

