

VOGUE

A portrait of Michelle Obama, the first African American woman to serve as the First Lady of the United States, is the central focus of the cover. She is wearing a vibrant red, sleeveless dress and is posed in a relaxed, seated position, leaning her head on her hand and smiling warmly at the camera. The background is a soft, out-of-focus warm tone.

MAR

MICHELLE OBAMA

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4. Capitol Charlotte

North Carolina's belles flock here for a sweet selection—and even sweeter service.

FEELING BLUE

JOHNSON, AT CHRISTIAN COTA'S NEW YORK STUDIO, WEARS HIS CERULEAN DRESS (\$1,242). IRADJ MOINI NECKLACE, ISAAC MANEVITZ FOR BEN-AMUN BRACELET, CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN SHOES.

southern comforts

- Capitol's sister store, Poole Shop, carries contemporary favorites like Vanessa Bruno and Alexander Wang; (704) 553-8868.
- Check out the costume collection at the Mint Museum of Art; mintmuseum.org.
- Stay at Doris Duke's childhood home, now a grand bed-and-breakfast; dukemansion.com.

W

hen Chandra Johnson's husband, Jimmie Johnson, became Nascar champion last November for the third time, the striking blonde knew there'd be a whole lot of celebrations and appearances that would each require a great look—a potentially anxiety-inducing situation. Not to worry: Back home in Charlotte, North Carolina, Laura Vinroot Poole, owner of the boutique Capitol, was ready and waiting to plan the perfect post-race wardrobe. "When Jimmie won, I was so calm about everything," says Johnson, a former model who runs a charitable foundation with her husband. "I knew they would help me get ready."

It's just one example of how Vinroot Poole and her staff will go above and beyond for clients. "We want to work with them for a long time," she says. "And that's about making women feel confident." For Vinroot Poole, it means she doesn't simply sell clothing; the Capitol team will clean out and organize closets, pack for trips, or even fly off to a wedding (at the store's expense!) to zip up the bride.

But the most important thing Vinroot Poole does is show Charlotteans how to fit the pieces from her store's vast and very inspired selection—from Oscar de la Renta to Rodarte to Balmain and even Lanvin bridal—into their lifestyles: "We have moms in Current/Elliott jeans doing morning school drop-offs, then 60-somethings in Balenciaga motorcycle jackets or leather leggings by the Row," Vinroot Poole says. "And they look *beautiful*."

So, when one of those Nascar events (the red-carpet Champions awards ceremony in New York) called for an important dress, Vinroot Poole thought of Christian Cota, the young Manhattan designer she'd recently introduced to Johnson. He concocted a fluttery blush-pink silk organza dress. And, of course, the boutique owner was there for all the fittings.

—FLORENCE KANE

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steal!

THE STYLE SPECTRUM

RIGHT, TOM BINNS NEON EARRINGS (\$225) GIVE A SUPERBRIGHT BANG FOR YOUR BUCK. LEFT, GIVENCHY ANKLE HEELS (\$1,760) ARE A MORE SERIOUS LUXURY, BUT WORTH EVERY CENT.

splurge!

