



STYLE MY WAY

Interior designer Natalie Walton tells *Georgie Gordon* why she won't wear red.

How would you describe your style?

I'm drawn to natural materials and I love a neutral palette. I have a very edited collection of clothes; everything goes together, everything gets worn. I'm very intentional about what I have in terms of my clothing. I have four young children, so I want to make life easy for myself.

What is the oldest thing in your wardrobe? A cotton summer dress from the late '80s that was my mother's.

And the most recent addition? A long wool and cashmere cardigan from local brand Rowie [Natalie lives



STYLE ICON

Natalie's favourite looks come from films such as *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, which starred Anne-Louise Lambert.



COVETING

Natalie would love a pair of brown R. M. Williams boots.

in Byron Bay]. It's a timeless piece I know I'm going to wear often.

What would you wear ...

... on a first date? What I usually wear – a dress and slides.

... on a plane? Off-white jeans, a blouse and a light knit. I always take my camel-coloured cashmere scarf.

... on the red carpet? One of my wedding dresses – I had two 1920s-style dresses made by a woman with a little shop in Notting Hill, London. The one I've worn a couple of times is a beautiful dusty-rose tunic with sequins, a bit like a flapper dress.

What's your favourite fashion era?

Recently it's Lauren Hutton's 1970s look. I love the palette, the high-waisted trousers, the blouses slightly tucked in and the beautiful coats.

Do you have a favourite designer?

I love the 1970s aesthetic with a bit of Victoriana that Dôen does. I like One Fable for essentials such as linen shorts, Fallen Broken Street and Will & Bear for hats, and Rafia Chic for shoes.

What's your fragrance of choice?

I've worn Aesop "Marrakech Intense" for at least eight years. It's a warm scent but not overpowering.

What are three essential items in your wardrobe? A flattering dress that has pockets, a beautiful blouse and a cardigan.

Any go-to jewellery? My wedding ring, a custom necklace by Elvis et Moi that has four gold medallions with my children's initials, and a Cartier watch that was a 40th birthday present from my family.

Can you remember a favourite outfit from when you were a child?

My mother dressed me in the clothes of the early '80s – smocked dresses in heavy velvet with Peter Pan collars.

And your worst fashion mistake?

I don't tend to think of what I wore as mistakes, just an earlier version of my style. Now I would never wear anything red, but there was a pair of red Alannah Hill boots with bows in the early 2000s.

What was your first fashion moment?

About seven years ago we were about to embark on a tree change and I went through all the things in my home, everything I'd collected; I only wanted to take what I really loved and had a personal connection with. In my wardrobe I got rid of all the colourful and patterned clothes and anything I didn't wear over and over. Creating those restraints was really freeing. I like the idea of having a capsule wardrobe.

Is there something you would never wear? Teva sandals.

What's at the top of your wish list?

I'm obsessed with a pair of St Agni woven leather boots which are sold out everywhere. Also, a pair of brown R. M. Williams boots.

What shoes do you wear most often?

I rotate between Blundstones – we live on a rural property – St Agni slides and Veja sneakers.

Who's your favourite fashion icon?

The looks I love come from films such as *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, or Kristin Scott Thomas in *The English Patient* and Meryl Streep in *Out of Africa*. Also the television show *The Durrells*, which is a combination of the clothes and the house!

What's your favourite off-duty, casual Sunday look? We'll go to the beach, so it's a dress I can throw over my swimming costume. •

Home by the Sea (Hardie Grant) by Natalie Walton is out now.