

Your Guide to Custom Anything!

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**BOCA'S
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BESPOKE

Definition of bespoke. *bespoke* /bəspōk/ adjective
1. made to individual order; custom-made, a bespoke suit.
2. making or selling bespoke goods.

Having something custom-made just for you is a luxury you can find right here at home in South Florida

Written by **Jan Engoren**

Photography by **Aaron Bristol**

True bespoke items are custom-made and fit to each client's specifications. Bespoke is exclusive and expensive—think the suits of Savile Row, the tailors of Hong Kong or the haute couture houses in Paris or Milan. The earliest records of bespoke clothing are for corsets and footwear in the 1700s. Handmade clothing, shoes, millinery, furniture and other items were the norm, until they became less expensive to mass-produce. Today, the term “bespoke” has evolved, and now applies to anything from cocktails to vacations to manicures—and a number of local companies are keeping the tradition alive. Here are a few of our favorite, local bespoke items.



Tammy Apostol



Tammy Apostol at work

TA Couture

Designed with a sense of luxury, Tammy Apostol's couture gowns, hats and fascinators are developed "with a vision to make every woman's fashion dream come true." Apostol, who began her career in Venezuela as an assistant designer for Christian Dior, incorporates sustainable fabrics and materials to create eco designs. She also custom-designs hats and fascinators.

"Wearing a hat shows you have the confidence to be seen," says Apostol. "Once you put on a hat, your personality and behavior changes to reflect your new style."

Everything is handmade and designed in her atelier in downtown Miami, where she has her showroom and fitting room, design studio and offices. Movie stars and opera singers sport her creations, and local TV anchor Tiffany Kenney wore a red off-the-shoulder TA Couture silk gown to a Moulin Rouge Gala in Palm Beach.

For Lady Rowena Finlayson of the Bahamas, whose husband, Sir Gareth 'Tiger' Finlayson, was knighted by the Queen of England, Apostol created a complete outfit—an Audrey Hepburn-esque baby blue felt hat paired with a coat dress in baby blue silk wool topped with white silk jersey gloves.

Her straw is imported from Asia and South America, wool felt from England, silk from India and Italy and lace from France and Italy. She incorporates the finest fabrics, custom beading and intricate embroidery.

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Bespoke
To borrow a line from a certain restaurant chain, you can have it your way. These artisans in Boca and beyond specialize in custom-made clothing, cars, food, accessories and art, with one-of-a-kind treasures tailored to fit.
By JAN ENGOREN

Tammy Apostol from TA Couture

AARON BRISTOL