

How to Wear Red

Want to add some red to your look for Valentine's Day? You're in luck because red is one of those universally flattering colors -- it's just a matter of knowing how to wear it. Try these tips from the experts at Mario Tricoci Hair Salons & Day Spas if you're ready to go red:

Hair - We're not talking Rihanna or Lucille Ball. Today's hottest reds are vibrant, but they're also natural and healthy looking. To be a beautiful redhead, consult with your colorist to find a shade that complements your skin tone. Women with light skin look best in copper and golden reds, while medium skin tones glow with a true red and darker skin looks radiant with violets and deeper reds. And remember, the best reds have dimension to them; you want darker tones closer to the roots and lighter tones at the tips.

Lips - Every woman can find the perfect red lip color. Once again, the secret is in your skin tone. Lighter, fair, and yellow undertone skin looks great with an orangey red, while cooler and olive skin tones can wear more of a range -- from brownish reds to pink-reds. The right red will brighten your skin when you're wearing nothing but foundation, and it won't make your teeth look yellow. Still not sure? Go the custom blend route; salons like Mario Tricoci will create a red for you while you wait. Then top off your look with the right cosmetics. While some women want to balance a deep red lip with a dramatic eye, a major trend this year is to go "barely there" with the rest of your cosmetics to truly make your lips the focal point.

Nails - Red nails are fun and flirty, and there are so many options. You can go dark, light or frosted, long or short -- red looks great no matter how it's worn. For a true red, use Essie's Forever Young or get a deep, lacquered red with Limited Addition. If you want a trendy look, go vibrant and super shiny. But just remember, when you choose a gorgeous red, make sure you have a good moisturizer like CND Almond and always carry Solar Oil as a staple in your purse. Just a dab will give the appearance of a fresh manicure and healthy cuticles. Finally, want a longer lasting red? Try a No-Chip manicure, which can last up to two weeks.

Mario Tricoci sources:

- John Gialluisi, creative director
- Cheryl Santucci, beauty director
- Amber Edwards, nail director