

Jennifer Carroll

CHEF

When millions of people have scrutinized your every move in the kitchen on national television, the act of being in the fashion spotlight every day might not seem quite as daunting.

And *Top Chef* contestant Jennifer Carroll would agree. The DC transplant, who recently teamed with Mike Isabella to open Requin (requinbymic.com) in Fairfax, Va., says one of her favorite pastimes is to hit boutiques and "try on a million things, [including brands] I know I'll love and clothes I think are silly or out there,"

she says. "I've always been into fashion. The way I dress expresses how I feel at certain times—[it could be] comfy or happy—[so you might see me in] heels, black, gray, skinny jeans or a sexy dress." Carroll wears conventional chef's garb during the day, but she pushes the boundaries of her look once the dinner crowd thins for the night or when she has days off.

She favors Elle Laurie, Rachel Roy, LAMB and Marciano. "With accessories, I like mixing big statement pieces with wispy delicate ones. [And I love] vintage handbags, fun heels, belts and the diamond earrings I wear every day." For many gourmands in DC and beyond, Carroll is a culinary hero, so it's heartening to know she has heroes of her own, including those who boldly punch holes in fashion boundaries. Carroll gushes over Gwen Stefani. "She pushes the edge sometimes with her style, which I like. She also tones it up and down perfectly: She looks [amazing] in jeans and sweats, and then superdramatic in dresses. I love it." And it's safe to say that Carroll's adoring fans feel the same way about her sense of inimitable style.

“My style is a mix of edgy and feminine. Fashion energizes me and [always] boosts my confidence, and [my body language] changes just by what I wear.”

—JENNIFER CARROLL



ON CARROLL
Dress by Love
and Lemons;
shoes by
Elle Laurie.