



THE SHOPPING NEWS

QUEEN OF QUAINT

THE CASUAL-CHIC MILL VALLEY RETAIL SCENE THRIVES, AS A NEW COUNTRY FRENCH DECOR SHOP AND DESIGNER CLOTHING BOUTIQUES THROW OPEN THEIR DOORS.

◆◆◆◆ LAVENDER DREAMS

Maison Rêve

means "dream home" in French. Proprietor Yasmine Ahmed scours the French countryside, especially Provence, for rustic furnishings and finishes for house and garden. She transforms antique wrought-iron gates into whimsical headboards, sews charming pillows using Provencal fabric remnants, and constructs one-of-a-kind dining tables out of farmhouse doors



and garden urns. 11 THROCKMORTON AVE., MILL VALLEY, (415) 353-9700.

◆◆◆◆ JET-SET HAND-ME-DOWNS

On first impression, **Moni** seems like just another women's clothing consignment shop, but careful inspection reveals that popped throughout the usual J. Crew and Banana Republic staples are some surprising couture finds. Recent gems included a bead-encrusted Badgley Mischka suit, a vintage 1960s Alaïa leather jacket, Kate Spade and Paloma Picasso handbags, and an assortment of Tse cashmere sweaters. 443 MILLER AVE., MILL VALLEY, (415) 388-7773.

◆◆◆◆ TIMELESS ELEGANCE

Over the past decade, San Francisco designer Catherine Jane Mendoza has built a loyal clientele for her chic and sensuous line of classic women's clothing at her Sunset shop, **Catherine Jane**. Her new Mill Valley boutique showcases this season's palette of winter whites and navy blues. Look for tailored shirts/blouses with matching slim belts, sunburst-pleated, calf-length skirts, and



charmeuse silk sleeveless blouses with wide cow-necks and flirty keyhole fronts. 53 THROCKMORTON AVE., MILL VALLEY, (415) 381-1255.

◆ GINA HYAMS