GORGEOUS JEWEL TONES

> Summer’s balmy temperatures are giving way to crisper, cooler days, which may have you reaching for the traditional choices (red, burgundy and orange) to give arrangements a fall feel. Consider a break from the familiar.

This year, autumn’s “it” shades (selected by Pantone, which the fashion world regards as an authority on color) look like they were plucked from the jewelry box, rather than the apple orchard or pumpkin patch. This month, four of the nation’s top designers weigh in on 10 of their favorite flowers that match these heavenly hues.

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“Because ‘Cerise’ (Esmeralda) is such an intense color, it could stand on its own, said Sylvia Bird, AAF, AIFD, PFCI. The Ft. Myers, Fla.-based designer suggests making a circular hand-tied bouquet using about 20 roses, surrounded by fatsia leaves with looped steel grass over the top to “give it lift.” For a bolder look, pair with purple phalaenopsis orchids and arrange as a teardrop bouquet, she said.

Give early autumn designs “a zap” with hot pink hydrangea (Delaware Valley Floral Group), using it “as the armature for other flowers,” said Ardith Beveridge, AAF, AIFD, PFCI. Using the hydrangeas en masse will give any fall arrangement a luxurious feel, said the director of education at Koehler & Dramm in Minneapolis.

UNEXPECTED ELEGANCE

Carol Caggiano, AIFD, PFCI, envisions ‘Sea Waltz’ delphinium (Equiflor) with another Pantone perfect match, ‘Super Green’ rose (Green Valley Floral), and some burgundy copper beech or dark begonia foliage “to give it a fall flavor.” “Using blue is very trendy and gives the fall palette a fresh, unexpected look,” said the Jeffersonsonton, Va., designer. Bird called the rose a “fashionable addition” for weddings any time of the year. “A lot of brides want a white bouquet with just a touch of color,” she said. “This delicate flower would do the trick.” She’d pair it with white ranunculus, hyacinths, tulips, hydrangeas and peonies.
Fresh Choices

**OCEANIC OPPULENCE**

“When I look at ‘Renate’ hydrangea (Delaware Valley Floral Group) and ‘Midnight’ mini calla (Delaware Valley Floral Group Group), I see lovely arrangements in cool blue, purple and violet,” said Walter Fedyslyn, AIFD, PFCI. These flowers beg to be paired together, especially for bridesmaids wearing dresses in shades of plum, eggplant, navy or royal blue, he said. Play up the autumnal feel by including some button mums in any shade of purple; for an extra “pop,” tuck in green hypericum berries, he said. For matching table décor, the creative design manager at Phillip’s Flowers in Chicago suggests alternating tall cylinders with submerged callas and a floating candle with bubble bowls overflowing with hydrangeas.

‘Clarita’ (Esmeralda) is a rose with “a delicate distinction,” thanks to its “charming pink color and high petal count,” Beveridge said. Its full, open shape will look especially appealing in garden and high style designs, she said. ‘Clarita’, part of Esmeralda’s “Show Time” line, works well with a broad spectrum of colors, so reach for it when designing trans-seasonal pieces, she said.

‘Laureen’ gerbera (Green Valley Floral) will have universal appeal, as there have always been (and always will be) brides who gravitate to pastels, Bird said. For a trendy look, she suggests using it with salmon or coral-colored flowers.

Even if fascination with Pantone’s “Rose Smoke” fades in coming years, ‘Laureen’ gerbera (Green Valley Floral) will have universal appeal, as there have always been (and always will be) brides who gravitate to pastels, Bird said. For a trendy look, she suggests using it with salmon or coral-colored flowers.

‘Caramel Antike’ (Green Valley Floral) is the perfect complement for a bride in ivory, Bird said. For a demure “peaches and cream” look, pair the garden rose with other soft-looking flowers, such as cream-colored lisianthus and ranunculus, and pale green hydrangeas.

‘Pink Champion’ campanula (Esmeralda). “I see it used in a basket design — or in a country church.” Lilac or purple carnations from Florigene’s “Moon” series would blend perfectly with this flower, as would irises, lisianthus, snapdragons, Bells of Ireland and hydrangeas, she said.