

Zoe Saldana brings festive elegance in Saint Laurent Paris

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Zoe Saldana (Photo credit: Shutterstock.com / Ovidiu Hrubaru)

When RH, the American luxury interiors brand formerly known as Restoration Hardware, opened its new Paris flagship this month, all eyes were expected to be on the palatial setting. The six-level gallery on the Champs-Élysées is a design destination in its own right, with sweeping staircases, glass ceilings, and marble finishes intended to position RH as a global tastemaker. Yet it wasn't just the furniture and chandeliers commanding attention on opening night. Actress Zoe Saldana managed to shift the conversation from interiors to style when she arrived dressed in Saint Laurent, embracing a look that felt like a festive head start.

Velvet and tartan in early September

Saldana, who has long balanced high-fashion red carpet moments with practical off-duty looks, chose an ensemble that signaled bold confidence. She wore a tartan button-down shirt tucked into a deep emerald velvet wrap skirt, its texture catching the Parisian light. A crocodile-embossed belt cinched the waist, emphasizing clean lines and structure. On her feet were knee-high Saint Laurent Nico boots in polished black leather, sharp enough to hold their own against the season's expected footwear trends.

The choice of velvet, a fabric most associated with winter evenings and holiday soirées, drew early reactions. September may feel premature for such a material, but Saldana's styling framed it as an intentional departure from transitional fall wear. Rather than play it safe with lightweight fabrics or muted autumn tones, she leaned into richness and depth, projecting an energy that felt celebratory rather than cautious.

A styling decision that reads intentional

Celebrity stylists often walk a delicate line between seasonality and statement. Petra Flannery, who has guided Saldana through many red-carpet appearances, made a case for breaking seasonal fashion rules. The addition of Cartier jewelry elevated the look, balancing the textured skirt with subtle sparkle. The entire ensemble felt rooted in Saint Laurent's Pre-Fall 2025 collection but interpreted in a way that foregrounded Saldana's own elegance.

This wasn't the kind of outfit that blended into a crowd or deferred to the event's interiors-first spotlight. Instead, it worked in harmony with the grandeur of the RH **Paris** opening. Just as RH positions itself as timeless yet contemporary, Saldana's look layered tradition—tartan and velvet—with modern polish.

When fashion timing becomes the point

For some observers, the question wasn't whether Saldana looked chic—it was whether the look belonged on a September red carpet. Social media users were quick to point out the early arrival of velvet boots, joking that Mariah Carey hadn't even begun her annual “not yet” holiday countdown. Yet others praised the ensemble as aspirational, calling it an intentional “festive head start.”

This debate highlights an enduring truth about red carpet fashion: timing matters, but so does attitude. In a moment when many public figures lean into safety with neutral palettes and transitional silhouettes, Saldana's choice sparked conversation precisely because it disrupted expectations.

RH Paris as a cultural backdrop

The setting added context to Saldana's appearance. RH's decision to open on the Champs-Élysées—arguably one of the most iconic retail addresses in the world—represents an expansion of American luxury into European markets long dominated by fashion houses. The event blended interiors, lifestyle branding, and celebrity presence into one spectacle.

In that environment, **Saldana's** Saint Laurent look acted as both a nod to Parisian chic and a reminder of her own global profile. Known for blockbuster franchises like “Avatar” and “Guardians of the Galaxy,” she carries international star power that bridges American and European audiences. Appearing in a French house at an American brand's Paris debut only reinforced the cross-cultural conversation.

A case study in fashion influence

What makes Saldana's outing significant isn't only the clothes she wore but also the narrative they created. She demonstrated how celebrities can use **fashion** to control conversations at events not centered on them. RH may have unveiled its latest gallery, but headlines and Instagram feeds spotlighted Saldana's ensemble as much as the architecture.

Her choice also underlines how Saint Laurent continues to position itself as the house of sharp glamour—chic, unapologetic, and slightly ahead of schedule. By opting for velvet and tartan months before most wardrobes would welcome them, Saldana proved that fashion influence isn't about following calendars but about dictating them.

Bold timing, flawless delivery

So was it too early for velvet skirts and knee-high boots? Technically, yes. But Saldana's confidence and careful styling transformed what could have been a misstep into a masterclass in pushing boundaries with grace. By appearing polished yet playful, she turned a simple gallery opening into a conversation about seasonality, style, and the power of leaning into fashion risks.

As RH Paris establishes itself on the Champs-Élysées and designers unveil new collections for fall, one thing is clear: Zoe Saldana's holiday-ready Saint Laurent look may have been early, but it was also perfectly timed to remind us that style is about intention, not calendars.