

2012 SS Dolce & Gabbana

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MILAN, September 25, 2011

By Nicole Phelps

Molto, molto Italiano.

Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana have long made the most of their roots, but at today's show, they really went all-out, from the colorful street festival lights suspended from the ceiling of their Metropoli venue to the soles of the models' plastic wicker sandals.

Picturesque summertime in a small town in southern Italy circa **the 1950's was the designers' starting point**. The eggplants, zucchinis, tomatoes, and hot peppers you'd find at an outdoor market inspired the oversize prints that decorated fit-and-flare dresses and midriff-baring bra tops and full skirts. Coincidentally, Rossella Jardini served up a vegetable dish of her own last night at Moschino Cheap And Chic, but Domenico and Stefano pushed the idea further, **with crochet tablecloth sheaths and matching coats** or little skirtsuits. Farfalle pasta shapes and garlic cloves dangled from earrings. And this was all set to a soundtrack of Sophia Loren belting out her best **"Mambo Italiano."**

After dark, Dolce and Gabbana left the veggies in the kitchen in favor of lace cocktail dresses that out-sparkled the lights above the runway (a bona fide hit, those) and a finale of their signature corsets encrusted to the hilt in colorful crystals.

Sure, it got a little too **kitsch** for comfort sometimes. But it was also the feel-good moment of the Milan season.