



LISA VENTRE'S HATS ARE crafted from rice paper straw. Wells checks out Ventre's shop (ABOVE RIGHT) for a new hat to add to her collection.

Lisa Ventre Hats
 357 Commercial Street
 508-487-6490
lisaventrehats.com



"Every summer, I buy a hat," says Wells, a tradition started when DeCosta gave her a gift of one from Lisa Ventre Hats, a charming store across from the public library. "I have five or six at this point."

The hats are made by artist Lisa Ventre, who uses a material called toyo straw, a quarter-inch braid of rice paper. "It is lightweight and flexible," Ventre says. "I begin each hat by stitching row upon row of the braid together, creating shape as I build the piece up." Not only are the hats "all really beautiful," says Wells, but they also are easy to pack and practical when spending hot summer days outside.

Sophisticated yet casual, they are perfect for a laid-back summer wardrobe.

"The attention to detail is phenomenal," says DeCosta. "She's taken this craft to a new level."

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