

Making scents

Finding and choosing the right fragrance can be like finding a needle in a haystack. Here's the best for the changing season BY **Stevie Wilson**



IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE, fall is a time of change. With the changing seasons come slightly cooler temperatures (despite the lack of seasonal transition seen in the rest of the country); children going back to school, and impending holidays looming large on the calendar.

In the southern half, spring has sprung, also with a lighter temperament.

So now is a great time to test drive some new fragrances for yourself and for holiday gift-giving (if you shop that far ahead).

The dilemma is what to buy? What—from the dizzying array of 2004 fragrance launches—to choose? Where to find something that is so unmistakably “you”?

There are two ways to go: first, the larger brands (Estée Lauder, Lancôme, Chanel and Elizabeth Arden) have lots of scents to try.

Moschino

Moschino has created super new fragrance that's sure to turn a lot of heads. **Moschino Couture** is for the woman with wit, panache and confidence in her abilities and her presence. Vibrant and exuberant, it is a lively fragrance that is both fruity with lush floral blossoms with a dry-down of woods, amber and vanilla that definitely underscore the sexiness of the female!

Notes

Top: bergamot, pepper, mandarin.

Heart: poppy seeds, jasmine, pomegranate flower and peony.

Base: benzoin, vanilla, cedar wood.

Armani Mania

'The essence of radiance' is the tag line on this fragrance. Clean packaging echoes the simplicity of the **Armani** line yet the fragrance underscores the complex design elements. It's essentially a woody, aromatic floral that is a blend of intense androgynous notes that present a warm yet clean top note blend blossoming into voluptuous, fresh white flowers that introduce hints of powder and wood and are supported by a base blend of woods, ambers, and musks. Rich, lively and definitely for a woman who knows her strengths and isn't afraid to show them off.

Notes

Top: Moroccan laurel, Sicilian green mandarin zest, blackcurrant fruit, pink pepper
Heart: magnolia, peony, lily of the valley and Provencal iris.

Base: Virginia cedar, creamy sandalwood, amber, vanilla and white musk.



Very Sexy for Her²

Very Sexy for Her² is a provocative fragrance from Victoria's Secret. This isn't for the shy ones, but for those who are comfortable in their own skin and not afraid to show it. This is a sensual blend of blackberry, white flowers along with black plum, patchouli and other unusual accords. Great body products, and don't forget Very Sexy for Him² which blends quite nicely for a “his and her” coordinating duo. Sleek packaging is done in pink for her, and blue for him!

Notes

Top: blackberry, freesia, peony, Casablanca lily.

Bottom: skin suede, white patchouli, black plum.

Ralph Lauren Glamorous Daylight

This new fragrance from **Ralph Lauren** is a lighter version of the original **Glamorous** eau de parfum. The five signature notes include dewy pearl flower, Leona pulmeris, Casablanca lily, exotic Siam wood and Cashmere musk—the perfect scent for daytime glamour.





Christian Dior Pure Poison

This fragrance is all about 'the seductress within; where seduction is instinctual, positive yet intense and mysterious'. Echoing previous Poison fragrances, this apple-shaped bottle with an iridescent white swirl flashes vivid colours. It's a fragrance with an intense opening, then blossoms into rich white floral enhanced with ambers and musk as the base for a vibrant, luminous, seductive scent. This fragrance includes body products, too.

Notes

Top: sweet orange, Calabrian bergamot, Sicilian mandarin.

Heart: orange flower, jasmine sambac LMR, hydroponic living gardenia.

Base: sandalwood, white amber, musk.

Prada

Prada fragrance is an entirely new way of wearing Prada. Created by Miuccia Prada marrying the traditional Prada values of tradition and quality with innovation and technology, this subtle fragrance is classically feminine with a modern approach. Rooted in amber, the fragrance is definitely a marriage of traditional with modern. Created on four elements: Pure (sandalwood oil); Addictive (patchouli); Precious (Labdanum resin) and Profound (Benzoin from Siam). The fragrance is spicy, redolent of amber and vanilla like scents while giving off a soft woody aroma. The collection includes eau de parfum and spray eau de parfum, bath and body products plus a more intense eau de parfum all packaged in a powder pink box with champagne label with prune logo. Definitely catch this one while you can.



Notes

Top: Italian bergamot oil, bitter orange oil, Sicilian mandarin oil, Mimosa absolute.

Middle: rose absolute, Schimus Molle absolute (South American pink peppercorns), Indonesian Patchouli oil.

Base: labdanum resinoide, Tonka bean absolute, vanilla absolute, Indian Sandalwood oil, Benzoin resinoide from Siam.

**'Glamour is in many ways
indefinable—it is more
of a feeling, an aura. It's
the way someone moves,
styles their clothes,
shares their personality.'**

Ralph Lauren



Curious by Britney Spears

Curious by Britney Spears is a launch partnering fragrance giant, **Elizabeth Arden** and pop star Spears in her first foray into the beauty field. Fresh and distinctly feminine, this white floral centred with Louisiana magnolia blends in other white flowers, woods and musks along with a sprinkling of sparkling pink notes and fruit. Cool body products add to the cachet.

Notes

Top: Louisiana magnolia, Anjou pear, lotus flower.

Heart: tuberose, star jasmine, pink cyclamen.

Base: vanilla musk, creamy sandalwood, blonde woods.

Emanuel Ungaro

Emanuel Ungaro has done something extraordinary. Very different from previous fragrance launches, **Apparition** creates a new category in fragrance. The concept is about a brief—yet astonishing—transformation of a woman; the metamorphosis of an "ordinary" person into a woman of great magnetism, femininity, and desirable. Flirty and engaging, this fragrance embraces a woman.

The opening notes give an exhilarating rush while the heart is tropical, fruity and floral for an utterly feminine feel that is most entrancing. Supported by patchouli for an exotic feel and heliotrope for a more sensual feel, this is a fragrance that has to be experienced. The bottle is a flacon of glass that has been stamped with 24K gold that has been tinted into gold, violet and green mirror facets on the front creating a shimmering burst of colour. It definitely leaves an impression. The collection includes bath and body products as well.

Notes

Top: raspberry liqueur, cayenne pepper.

Heart: passionflower, "Double Delight" rose.

Base: patchouli, heliotrope.



BEAUTY NOW



Michael Kors Sensual Suede

Michael Kors is known for changing his base fragrance presentation by adding additional fragrances and notes to create different variations. His newest creation is the **Michael Kors Sensual Suede Collection**. This hot new line is the same intense tuberose floral with the addition of micronized ultrasuede to give a luxe feeling of being wrapped in suede.

Sensual Suede Shimmering Body Powder

is a luxurious, silky body powder with both a suede and shimmer effect to envelope the body with a glorious fragrance. **Sensual Suede Body Moisturizer** is a sleek lotion that feels like velvet. **Sensual Suede Solid Perfume** is a soft richly scented solid fragrance in a sleek silver and Lucite compact. One word describes this collection: sexy!

The latest trend is seen in brands taking a popular fragrance and tweaking them a bit with new notes (ingredients) to make them smell a little different but keep the fragrance thematically the same.

Fresh

Fresh is the well known brand of cosmetics, bath and body products. Well known for the **Index** line, Fresh has launched fragrances based on sugar which is a strong scent in their bath and body line: Sugar, Sugar Blossom and now Lemon Sugar Eau de Parfum. It was predicated on the **Lemon SugarBath** collection that is so popular. This new sweet-tart fragrance has lemon, sugar and a sparkling texture yet has some substance in the dry-down. Its freshness makes it a perfect every-day fragrance. Packaging is clean and fits in nicely with the Lemon SugarBath collection products.

Notes

Top: Italian lemon, yuzu, mandarin.

Heart: lychee flower, orange blossom, ginger flower.

Base: oak moss, caramel, white santal.



Blush Marc Jacobs

Blush Marc Jacobs is another twist on the fragrance theme. As soft as a blush when one is complimented, a pink hue with the warm sweetness of jasmine in a bottle that, too, is a blush colour yet is more romantic in tone, luminous in feel. Opening with a soft jasmine petal wet with dew, Blush blossoms into creamy star jasmine with silken Japanese honeysuckle grounded with soft musks and woods to create a delicate balance. The packaging so gloriously feminine with the pink tint and wonderful curves in the perfume and eau de parfum, but Jacobs continues the collection with both bath and body products. **First Blush Marc Jacobs** limited edition colour collection includes gloss, mascara, powder and eau de parfum rollerball all neatly packaged in a metallic silver bag.

Notes

Top: dewy jasmine petals.

Heart: star jasmine, Japanese honeysuckle.

Base: woods, musk.

Southern scents

There are a few more scents we at *Lucire* wish to point out: those that seem more suited to a southern sensibility for spring
BY Nicola Brockie

Elizabeth Arden Provocative Woman

Want to melt your man? Try this sexy new fragrance from **Elizabeth Arden**. Designed to appeal to a woman comfortable in her own skin who is impulsive and seductive, and looking for a fragrance to reflect that. If you like oriental scents, you will love **Provocative Woman** which is structured around exotic and unusual ingredients such as water lotus, ginger, lily, papaya blossom, pink freesia, midnight orchid and red amber.

Catherine Zeta-Jones, the inspiration and spokesperson for Elizabeth Arden, calls this scent 'sensual and seductive', which indeed it is. With a stunning bottle inspired by the curve of a woman's back, this new scent is sexy inside and out—a fantastic finishing touch for your sexy new season look and feel.



Boutique-type fragrances aren't necessarily sold in boutiques but are small lines that present a different, more individual vision of a fragrance. From concept to finished product, the boutique or niche fragrance is often more difficult to find, but in the same respect—once an appropriate scent is found—is more unique a fragrance for the person wearing it. It becomes a reflection and signature of the person who has selected it as well as something you won't smell on everyone.

Comptoir Sud Pacifique

Comptoir Sud Pacifique is perfectly suited for a Florida lifestyle. The tropical fragrances are often called an "eaux de voyage". With the tropical weather and resort lifestyle of Florida, Comptoir Sud Pacifique provides a collection of fragrances that is at the heart of an exotic lifestyle. Wearing one of the fragrances is like taking a vacation. Most known for their exotic vanilla blends (Vanille Abricot, Vanille Ambre, Vanille Coco, Vanille Banane), Comptoir Sud Pacifique has an array of other fragrances that are fragrant trips to tropical spots. **Cœur de Vahine** (from the Tropical Garden group) is a newer fragrance that is a sparkling, effervescent scent concocted with peach, passion fruit mixed with a little orange and blended with floral notes of jasmine, rose and Tahitian flowers built on a base of vanilla and musk. It transports you to new places where you are carefree and fun-loving: think of it as a modern-day evocation of the Garden of Eden and you won't be too far off the mark. Rich, heady, sexy and exotic, it's paradise found in a bottle. Sleek brushed aluminium packaging makes it easy to travel with plus it helps preserve the potency of the fragrance.



Notes

Top: orange, bergamot, peach, passionfruit.

Heart: cinnamon, rose jasmine, Opuhi flower from Tahiti.

Base: sandalwood, vanilla, musk.



Bond No. 9

Bond No. 9 New York is a hot specialty brand making beautiful fragrances with a light-hearted touch with serious devotees across the country. The entire theme of the collection is to capture the essence of New York and its neighbourhoods in a fragrance. This collection of 19 fragrances has something for nearly every neighbourhood including Broadway, Harlem, Noho, Soho and more. The newest is **Little Italy**, a smooth, zesty fragrance opening with citrus notes that segue into a creamy gelato-like texture with an uplifting feel, yet has a very sensuous texture. If you are a transplanted New Yorker, this is your way of visiting without the expense or travel; if you have never been, think of it as an olfactory trip to the Big Apple.

Notes

Top: Clementine, grapefruit, mandarin.

Heart: tangerine, jasmine.

Base: sheer musk.

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Ralph Lauren eau de toilette

This colorful, floral fragrance from Ralph Lauren captures the energy, spirit and personality of today's young woman with a gorgeously fruity, floral fragrance: sparkling green apple leaves, zesty orange mandarin, charismatic pink magnolia, seductive purple freesia and soft blue musk.



Blend: Floral.

Notes: apple tree leaves, yellow freesia, Italian mandarin, Japanese loquat, osmanthus, magnolia, linden blossom flower, purple freesia, boronia, musk 2000, white orris.

Style: a colourful floral expression.

Lancôme Calypso

A fresh and sparkling summertime perfume in a limited edition.

To truly capture the scents of paradise on earth, it is fresh—like nature in its most pure sense—yet sensual, like an exotic woman. At the source of this original and voluptuous fount of well-being is a cocktail of fruits and flowers from a dreamy paradise—a veritable archipelago of scents to wear.

And to contain this magic potion, the **Calypso** bottle has been bathed in the hues of a setting sun, soaked in turquoise blue and flamboyant orange, it is like an irresistible foretaste of escape post-winter and heading into spring.

