

VITA

YOUR LIFESTYLE SUPPLEMENT FROM VITADAILY.CA • DECEMBER 2019



inside the

DECEMBER

ISSUE

MERRY COSMOS

Have Yourself *a*
Stellar Season

FOOTWEAR 50

Fluevog Celebrates
Five Iconic Decades

HOLIDAY HAIR

Perfect DIY Party
Looks *by* Dyson

PRETTY PRESENTS

Gorgeous Gifts
Inside *and* Out

OFF-WHITE CHRISTMAS

Ivory Accents *for*
the Holidays

FESTIVE FEASTS

Nutcracker Teas *and*
Champagne Machines



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EDITOR'S DESK



editor's letter

Every Christmas my husband puts a brand-new perfume under the tree for me. He either chooses a fragrance based on the beauty of its bottle, or he takes a guess at what I might like to smell on my skin—either way, it's always a fun package to open (and a fun gift to guess at). This year, I'm helping him out with my top picks (my gut says he may go for the **Lush**, for the pun of its name).

Our gift suggestions don't end there, though. Dig into this issue of **VITA** for a stellar-themed guide and beauty offerings in such pretty packages, you won't even have to wrap them. Also, holiday hair with **Dyson**, the hottest new retailers to shop around the city, festive décor that's decidedly not white and bottles of bubbly for a Christmas party-worthy pop. Happy holidays, all!

Noa Nichol
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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COMING UP ROSES

Created as a tribute to **Chopard's** beautiful co-president, Rose de Caroline (\$786) is an ode to sustainable luxury glowing with a unique selection of natural ingredients (like Bulgarian rose) from ethical sources. 925 W. Georgia St., 604-684-6515. Chopard.com

MAKING MEMORIES

An elixir that transcends gender, **Gucci Mémoire d'une Odeur** (from \$116 at **Hudson's Bay**) features such unexpected ingredients as Roman chamomile, Indian coral jasmine, musks, woods and vanilla to create a truly Christmas-gift-worthy scent. 650 W. 41st Ave., 604-261-3311. Thebay.com



ODE TO JOY

The essence of the season captured in a bottle, Joy by **Dior** (from \$94 at **Sephora**) shines with the vibrant smile of flowers and citrus fruits, the smooth caress of wood and the serenity of musks. This festive fragrance is faceted with a thousand enveloping nuances that lead to a clean, simple expression. 1045 Robson St., 604-681-9704. Sephora.ca

TOTAL TREASURE

This fresh herbal perfume (from \$40) from **Lush's** new fragrance line, boasting citrus notes of Sicilian lemon and green mandarin oils with grounding and cosy elements of rosemary and sage, is one you'll want to treasure, not trash. 2248 W. 4th Ave., 604-733-5874. Lush.ca



BETTER THAN DIAMONDS

The defining fragrance of **Tiffany & Co.** (from \$85 at **Shoppers Drug Mart**) includes signature notes of vert de mandarine, iris, patchouli and musk. And, like a favourite piece of jewelry, it's a scent you'll want to wear again and again. 2888 Granville St., 604-738-3107. Beauty.shoppersdrugmart.ca



VITA

PUBLISHED BY **VITA DAILY MEDIA INC.** EDITOR-IN-CHIEF **NOA NICHOL** CREATIVE DIRECTOR **MADISON HOPE VEITCH** SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER **VICKI DUONG** CONTRIBUTORS **LYNDI BARRETT JEANINE GORDON ALEESHA HARRIS SHERI RADFORD AMANDA ROSS MIRANDA SAM** COVER **A SOLD-OUT LOOK FROM THE GIAMBATTISTA VALLI X H&M COLLECTION** CANADA POST PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT #42849020

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STELLAR season

WE COMBED THE COSMOS FOR THIS HOLIDAY'S TOP GIFT PICKS



Samantha Sito

@SAMANTHASITO

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lifestyle



INFLUENCER PICK

Lise Watier's Stardust eyeshadow palette (\$55 at **London Drugs**) has such a great variety of shades, ranging from dusky pinks and browns to rich blues and greens, that can be used throughout the holidays. There are also three finishes—matte, satin and metallic—so it's really versatile in creating many looks. Plus, I love sparkle during the holidays, and so am a huge fan of the glam, glittery, star-embellished packaging! **1187 Robson St., 604-448-4819. Londondrugs.com**



STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

Make your milky way through the holiday party circuit in these stunning **Chiara Ferragni** star stiletto sandals (\$938). **Chiaraferragnicollection.com**

PRETTY PARTICLES

This Christmas make this My Sun, My Moon and All My Stars solid-gold charm necklace (\$600) by **Melanie Auld** your everything, just like the special people in your life. A reversible sun-and-moon medallion is set with two different stars so, day and night, you can be reminded of magic moments and special times. **1575 W. 6th Ave., 236-986-7845. Melanield.com**



WIN THIS!
Vitaldaily.ca
contests



LIGHT-YEAR LOBES

Make the ultimate starry seasonal statement with these unique stud earrings (\$600) from **Michael Hill**, featuring diamonds set in rose gold. **Shop boutiques at Park Royal, Metrotown, Brentwood Mall and Richmond Centre. Michaelhill.ca**



FULSOME MOON

Pulled from Montreal-based Virginie Turcot-Lamarre Marche's Lunaire collection, this half-moon necklace (\$94 online at **Simons**), with a minimalist-chic design, is a dreamy piece that captures both sophistication and individuality. **Simons.ca**



EVENING DRESS
Light up the night in **Marchesa Notte's** Glitter Star tulle cocktail dress (\$970 at **Nordstrom**), featuring frothy layers of tulle illuminated with a galaxy of glittery stars. **799 Robson St., 604-699-2100. Shop.nordstrom.com**

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CELESTIAL CIRCLE

David Yurman's Starburst Constellation ring (\$2,000 at **Holt Renfrew**) is a pretty gift. **737 Dunsmuir St., 604-681-3121. Holtrenfrew.com**



SPACE WALK

Inspired by the **Roger Vivier's** archive, these I Love Vivier Décolleté 85 satin pointed toe pumps (\$1,115 at **Holt Renfrew**) are characterized by a heart-evoking silhouette and feature an elegant lacquered heel. This limited-ed pair is covered in twinkling crystal stars. **737 Dunsmuir St., 604-681-3121. Holtrenfrew.com**

CHAIN REACTION

From **Pyrha**, this talisman (from \$185 at **Bella & Wren**) reads "I wish happiness for you" in French. The perfect gift for someone near and dear, the sun, moon and stars represent love without limits. **2 9110 Glover Rd., Fort Langley, 604-380-4484. Bellawren.ca**



PLANET PALETTE

This limited-edition 15-shade Lunar Beauty Moon Spell eyeshadow palette (\$63 at **Sephora**), inspired by pop-culture witches, is perfect for creating super-bold looks. **Sephora.com**

SHOOTING STARS

Bring the stars into your bath and shower with **Lush's** stellar soap (\$7 each). Embedded with neon stars and infused with antioxidant-rich starfruit juice, these are starry through and through. **2248 W. 4th Ave., 604-733-5874. Lush.ca**



UNIVERSAL LINK

Designer **Robert Tateossian**, the king of cufflinks, was inspired in creating this star-centred design (\$275 at **Simons**) by the architecture of his home country, Armenia. **1060 Park Royal S., West Vancouver, 604-925-1840. Simons.ca**

FASHION & SHOPPING



ASTRAL ART

Artist Catherine Lavoie's graphic crescent moon and typographic inscription on a navy background (starting at \$40 online at **Simons**) makes a trendy gift for any décor buff. Simons.ca

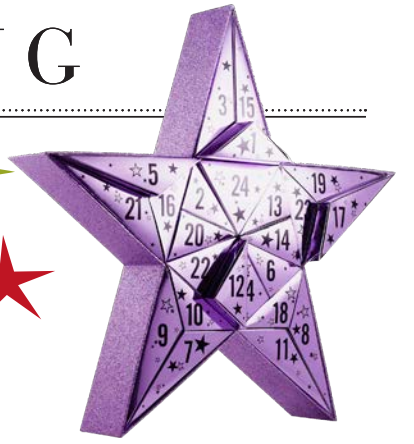
COUNT DOWN

This stainless-steel Happy Stars watch (price on request) evokes the 15th-century clock tower that overlooks Venice's St. Mark's Square, with a deep-blue dial, leather strap and sparkling stars gliding like gondolas between two sapphire crystals. *925 W. Georgia St., 604-684-6515. Chopard.com*



HIGH LIGHT

Get ready for the most celestial highlight of your life! Encased in a magical starburst compact, this limited-edition Charlotte's Magic Star powder highlighter (\$50) in gold champagne gilds your skin with a moonlit shimmer for a soft-focus beauty glow that reflects the festive light. Charlottetilbury.com



STAR SET

It's OK to buy two of **MAC's** advent calendar (\$195) and keep one for yourself—we won't tell! This kit contains everything you need to prime, gloss, bronze, brush, highlight and contour this season. *908 Robson St., 604-682-6588. Maccosmetics.ca*

TWINKLE TOTE

Atlantic-Pacific blogger Blair Eadie's holiday collab with **Halogen** has produced, among other things, this star-shaped bag done in lustrous pearly beads (\$208 at **Nordstrom**). *799 Robson St., 604-699-2100. Shop.nordstrom.com*



SPACE SUIT

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, you'd wear this **Levi's** starry denim jacket (\$148 at **Simons**). *1060 Park Royal S., West Vancouver, 604-925-1840. Simons.ca*



December's It Bag

BY ALEESHA HARRIS

Reaching for the stars is as easy as reaching for your favourite lipstick, keys or wallet with this Sadie crossbody clutch from **Coach** (\$225). The hands-free style features the American brand's signature monogram canvas in a moodier-than-normal colour pairing of dark grey and black, with multicoloured star appliqués affixed overtop. The effect is a bit like a clear night sky during a chilly winter evening—except, you know, chicer. If the petite style is a bit too small for you, the star-spangled motif can also be spotted on a tote, backpack, larger crossbody and more. *650 W. 41st Ave., 604-266-1214. Ca.coach.com*



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Hot Shops

VANCOUVER'S GREATEST AND LATEST RETAILERS



PHOTO: BENOIT PEVERELLI



CHANEL SHOE BOUTIQUE
Carrie Bradshaw said it best: “The fact is, sometimes it’s hard to walk in a single woman’s shoes. That’s why we need really special ones now and then to make the walk a little more fun.” Now, local fans of really special footwear have a new favourite destination: **Chanel**’s recently unveiled 1,000-square-foot shoe boutique inside **Holt Renfrew**. Like an ebony jewel box overflowing with treasures that promise to make all feet look fabulous, the shop currently features pieces from the FW19/20 and Cruise 2020 collections—suede ballet flats, heels adorned with pearl accents, rubber boots far too stylish for merely wearing in the rain, pink quilted sneakers equally perfect for a Saturday club night or a lazy Sunday brunch, and cosy shearling-lined boots that could easily survive a stint in real winter weather, somewhere else in Canada. To quote Carrie once more, “When I want a ridiculously extravagant pair of shoes, I find a way to buy them.” You should, too. **737 Dunsmuir St., 604-681-3121. Holtrenfrew.com** SHERI RADFORD



McARTHURGLEN DESIGNER OUTLET VANCOUVER AIRPORT
Finding the right gift (even if it’s for yourself) just got a whole lot easier with the expansion of our favourite designer outlet, **McArthurGlen**. The popular destination near YVR has been attracting savvy shoppers—plus travellers on airport layovers—since it opened in 2015. It now boasts an additional 84,000 square feet of irresistible brand-name stores, tempting fashionistas and bargain-hunters alike. The new **Jimmy Choo** boutique includes more than just the brand’s iconic footwear, also carrying handbags, scarves, sunglasses and belts, while **AllSaints** brings London chic to Vancouver. **Stuart Weitzman** stocks red-carpet-ready styles for the modern woman and **Jack & Jones** outfits her equally stylish male counterpart. For those needing clothes for sweatier pursuits—and those wanting only to appear like they embody the active Vancouver lifestyle—there’s **Adidas** and **The North Face**. **Movado** carries watches by brands like **Coach**, **Tommy Hilfiger** and **Olivia Burton**. And **L’Occitane en Provence** sells skin- and body-care products and fragrances—everything you need to look (and smell) like you’ve just returned from a sojourn to the South of France. Since shopping builds up an appetite, the centre also features wood-fired pizza at **BiBo**, Chinese cuisine at **Neptune Wonton Noodle**, a Japanese twist on hotdogs at **Japadog**, oh-so-sweet chimney cakes at **The Praguery** food truck and, of course, much-needed caffeine fixes at **Caffè Artigiano** and **Starbucks**. Thanks to the bigger McArthurGlen, there’s never been a better reason to drive a friend to the airport. **1000 - 7899 Templeton Station Rd., Richmond, 604-231-5525. Mcarthurglen.com** SHERI RADFORD



KNIX
Officially the bra-and-undies-maker’s first Canadian bricks-and-mortar boutique (granted, Toronto’s store opened mere days later), **Knix** is now, happily, a part of the West Fourth retail community. Find the brand’s all-shapes-and-sizes-friendly and oh-so-comfortable garments (think: wireless bras and leakproof underwear) beautifully showcased in a minimalist space boasting an original mural by Leia Bryans and plenty of curved architectural features to echo the company’s curve-conscious philosophy. **2076 W. 4th Ave., 604-336-9261. Knix.ca** NOA NICHOL

La Jolie Madame LINGERIE

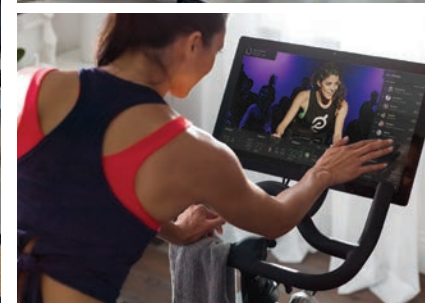
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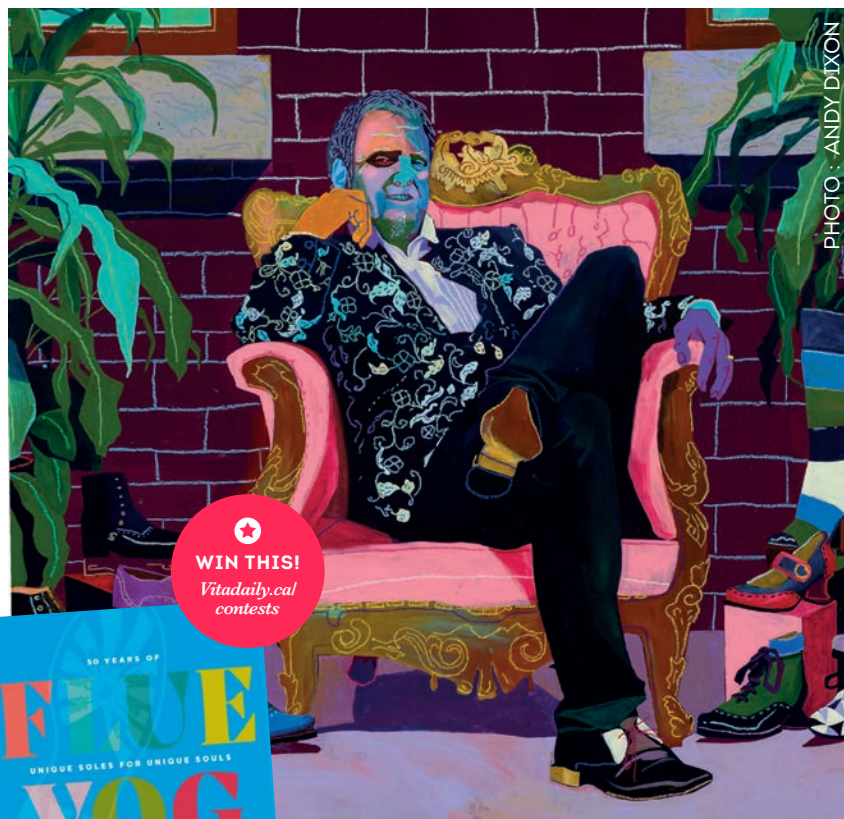
H&M PACIFIC CENTRE
Last month, **H&M** unveiled its redesigned store at the heart of **Pacific Centre** mall. First opened in 2008 (wow, that sure dates us!) the renovated space now occupies an additional 8,000 square feet, including an entirely new floor on the lower level dedicated to dudes (don’t worry, the store continues to carry women’s, teens’ and kids’ clothes). Unique to Vancouver, the façade of the new store is a custom metal structure meant to resemble origami-style paper folds—the first of its kind in Canada. Lucky us! **609 Granville St., 855-272-7007. Hm.com** NOA NICHOL



PELOTON
If you’re already a fan of **Peloton**, you were probably counting the days till its showroom opened on South Granville. If you’re new, however, to the cycling-at-home phenomenon, get ready to clip in for the smoothest ride of your life. The brand blends the advantages of a home workout with the best parts of group fitness classes, resulting in a sense of community—and no excuses to skip a sesh. Each stationary bike comes equipped with a 55-centimetre screen to display classes streamed live from New York or chosen from a library of thousands, as well as virtual cycles through scenery such as Stanley Park. If your physical coordination is more Mr. Bean than Greg LeMond, you’ll enjoy exercising without anyone watching. And if you need words of encouragement, instructors like Emma Lovell are there onscreen to offer inspiration. Lovell admits it took her a while to stop worrying about looking sweaty on camera, until she realized, “The more authentic you are and real you are, the more motivating you are.” Stop by the showroom to try a bike for yourself and discover your new favourite way to work up a sweat. **2762 Granville St., 866-679-9129. Onepeloton.ca** SHERI RADFORD

Fifty for Fluevog

FIVE DECADES ON AND VANCOUVER'S ICONIC SHOE-MAKER IS STILL GOING STRONG
BY JEANINE GORDON



It's the people who wear my shoes that matter. Individuality is good and I believe in celebrating people's uniqueness. Inspiration, for me, is the boldness and confidence in what you do. I think the things that come from your soul are good feelings and I run my company on feelings—it gives me the confidence to try wacky things.

How are you contributing to environmental sustainability?

My slogan is, "buy better, buy less," which sounds crazy—for a retailer to tell people to buy less—but it's true. Buying more and more product that you're only going to throw away after a season is not cool. We have an online marketplace where people can buy and sell their used Fluevogs, called the Fluemarket, and that's probably the most eco-friendly thing we're doing today.

You've worked with a lot of celebrities—who has been your favourite to partner with so far?

The most truthful answer I have to that isn't about celebrities or entertainers. I still get excited when I see people wearing my shoes, just walking down the street.

What style rules you do live by?

Mix it up. Never be all one thing. Play with vintage and things that are already in your closet that you love. And, whatever you wear, do it with panache and authority. Never think you can't pull something off—wear what you want and own it. 65 Water St., 604-688-6228. Fluevog.com



Vancouver footwear king **John Fluevog**, best known for his quirky, exaggerated silhouettes and technicolour shoe designs, has amassed fans around the globe. With 27 stores and a celebrity following (Lady Gaga, Beyoncé and Madonna), it's an exciting time to be a Fluevog fan. We sat down with the man in his Gastown flagship to talk about his career and his new book, *Fifty Years of Unique Soles for Unique Souls*.

How have you evolved, as a designer, over the last 50 years?

Every day has mattered. It's been the story of me getting to know how I was made. I started out thinking that I was not very good at anything. I was a wandering soul and my career has been one of me getting to know myself and discovering what I was good at. Once I figured that out, I ran with it. I'm thankful for that—for getting into something that I could do, and do well.

You've taken cues from cars, disco, grunge and travel. What is your current source of inspo?



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Holiday Hair

TWO DYSON TOOLS. TWO DIY SEASONAL STYLES

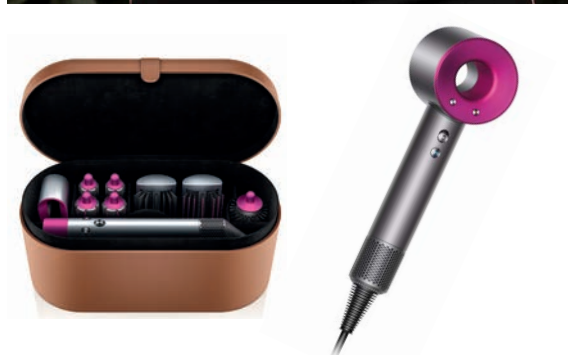
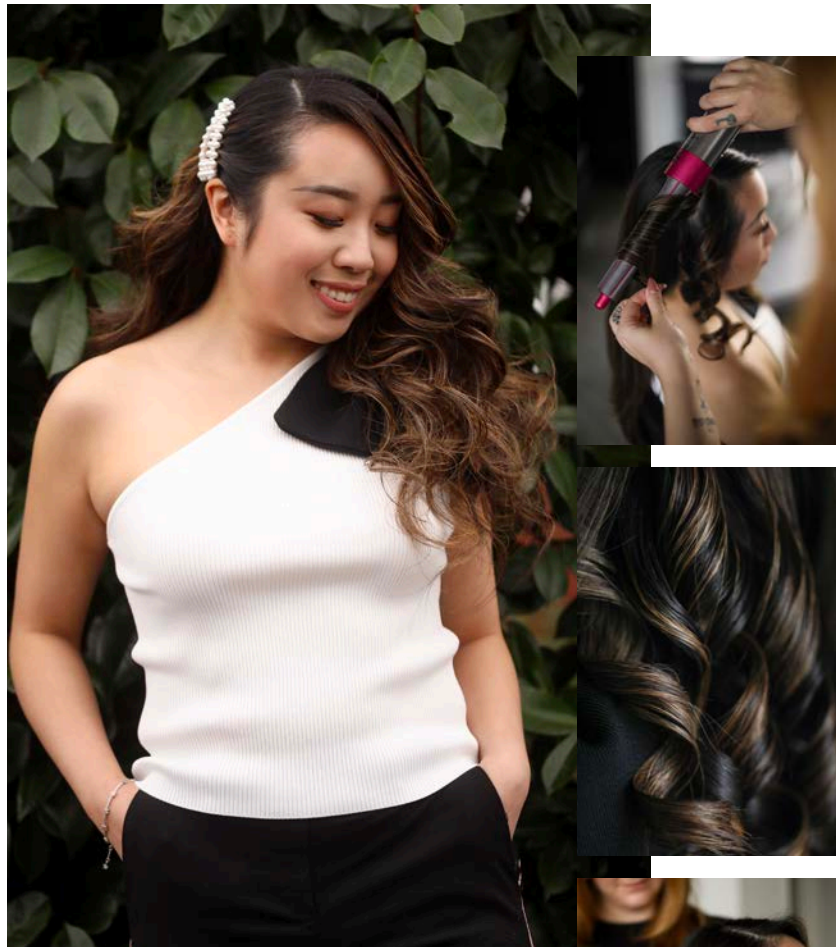
T

“This holiday season is all about bouncy and healthy hair, and it all starts with the tools you’re using. The powerful airflow and heat control of the **Dyson** Supersonic hair dryer smooths out your cuticle for a sleek, natural blowout in record time. And the Dyson Airwrap creates those perfect bouncy waves. Accessories are still having a major moment—so find something cute that works with or amps up your beautiful holiday get up.” —*Matthew Collins, Dyson global styling ambassador*

PARTY VOLUME

Tools: Dyson Airwrap styler, hair clips, comb, mousse, medium-to-strong-hold hairspray, texturizing spray, large bobby pins or hair clips

Step 1: Shampoo and condition hair, towel dry to remove excess moisture. Work mousse through hair with hands, focusing on the root area.



Use Dyson Airwrap prestyling dryer attachment to rough-dry hair to 50 per cent damp.

Step 2: Switch to the Dyson Airwrap smoothing brushes (firm brush for coarser hair or soft brush for finer hair). Focusing from root to midway down length of hair, smooth to create a small amount of volume with no curl or bend.

Step 3: Dry and smooth top of hair then apply spray to mid-lengths and ends. Attached a Dyson 30-mm Airwrap barrel; hold unit upside-down in mirror to determine what side of the head will wrap away from the face. Taking vertical one-inch-wide sections and, starting in front, manually wrap the mid-lengths to ends around the barrel. Heat to dry and style for 10-12 seconds, then cool 2-5 seconds before moving on to the next. Continue to centre back of head and stop. Switch to other 30-mm barrel and repeat same steps on other side of head.

Step 4: Once entire head completed, mist hair with texturizing spray. Using fingers, gently pull waves apart section by section. To create more volume through the bottom, hold ends of the hair and, using other hand, slide hair up toward root, mist with hairspray for hold. Repeat through entire head.

Step 5: Using a comb, smooth out root to the top of the ear and then slide in desired bobby pins/clips following the curve of the head. Finish with hairspray.



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PRETTY PONY

Tools: Dyson Supersonic, diffuser attachment, smoothing nozzle attachment, medium-hold gel, surf spray, bobby pins, brush, comb

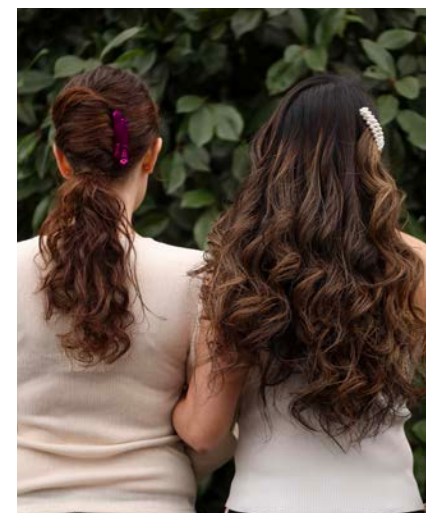
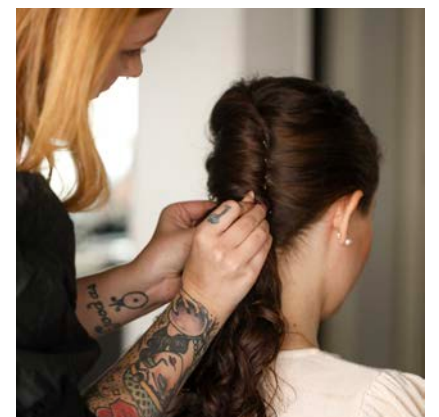
Step 1: Shampoo and condition hair, towel dry to remove excess moisture. Dispense gel in hand and run through hair from roots to ends. Take two-to-three-inch-wide sections and twist hair away from face.

Step 2: Use Dyson Supersonic with diffuser attachment on low airflow (one white light) and low heat (one red light) to gently diffuse twists until dry. Tip: to reduce frizz, start drying at scalp and work down the hair, limiting the amount of movement. To create volume for finer hair, tip head upside-down and side-to-side while diffusing.

Step 3: Once dry, place hands at the scalp and shake hair to break up texture. Using hands or a comb direct all hair to one side of head and place bobby pins down the centre until just before crown. Gather all of the free hair and elevate to 90 degrees from head, with ends of hair directed down toward back. Start to roll hair in toward head and secure as you move toward the bottom.

Step 4: To soften the look for a windswept effect, use Dyson Supersonic with smoothing nozzle attachment and, on low airflow (one white light) and cool heat (no red lights), blow-dry hairline.

Step 5: Finish with desired surf spray through ends and place accessories on the seam of the hair. Dysoncanada.ca



Dream Team

Salon: Nadia Albano Style Inc. | **Stylist:** Shallynn Johnston

Models: Lyndi Barrett, Samantha Sito | **Photographer:** Erin Sousa

Accessories: Bella & Wren, Melanie Auld, Fyne @ Blubird

BEAUTY & BOWS

Pretty Presents

OUR TOP HOLIDAY BEAUTY GIFT PICKS ARE
DECIDEDLY GORGEOUS—INSIDE AND OUT
BY AMANDA ROSS



CHANEL

Coco Chanel pioneered a sartorial “less is more” ethos, but she favoured opulence in her interiors. Enter, from the Les Ornaments de Chanel holiday collection, the limited-edition Éclat Magnétique illuminating powder in metal peach (\$85 at **Holt Renfrew**); it perfectly straddles indulgent splendour and refined minimalism with its ornate surface engraved with a vintage Chanel button. 737 Dunsmuir St., 604-681-3121. Holtrenfrew.com



GUERLAIN

Designed by Parisian jeweler Lorenz Bäumer, the exclusive Rouge G rhinestone wild glam lipstick case (\$350 at **Holt Renfrew**) by 170-year-old Guerlain is a collector’s gem—literally and figuratively—with 46 handset rhinestones forming a slithering, sparkling snake that stealthily houses your lippy shade (customizable lipstick sold separately, \$38). 737 Dunsmuir St., 604-681-3121. Holtrenfrew.com



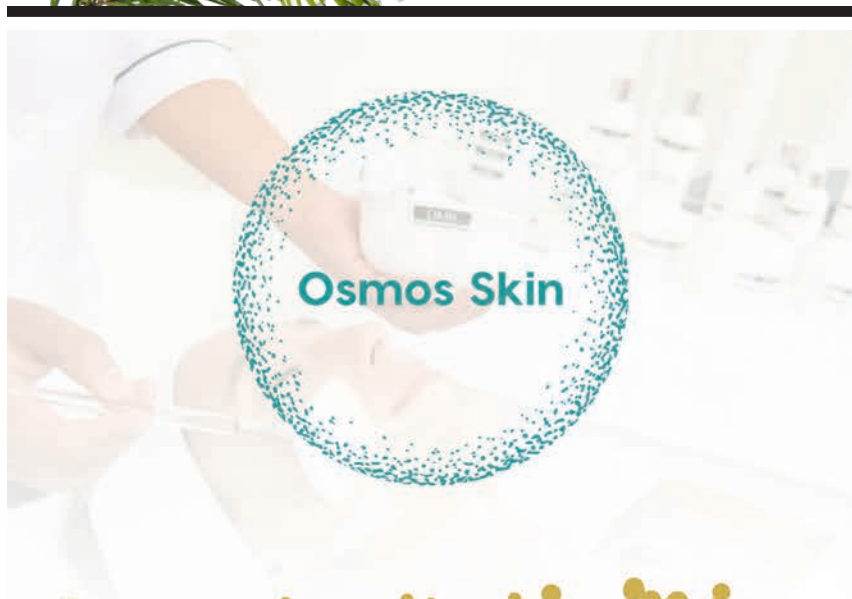
JEAN PAUL GAULTIER

Shake the Scandal Xmas collector EDP snow globe by **Jean Paul Gaultier** and watch cheeky legs appear through the snowflakes that kick up a storm in red marinère holiday socks. The limited-ed fragrance (\$138 at **Hudson’s Bay**) boasts notes of honey, gardenia and blood orange while patchouli rounds out the base. 674 Granville St., 604-681-6211. Thebay.com



ORIBE

Luxury hair-care brand **Oribe** teamed up with artists from L.A.’s **Block Shop Textiles** to create colourful, 100 per cent post-consumer-recycled block prints inspired by natural elements in Jaipur. Artworks are hand-printed by fifth-gen master craftspeople in India and the purchase of any limited set—like the collector’s edition including a dozen sample sizes (\$385 at **Nordstrom**)—gives back to their community. 799 Robson St., 604-699-2100. Nordstrom.ca



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ESTÉE LAUDER

Get your head in the game—and your lips—with **Estée Lauder’s** note-perfect holiday 5 of a Kind Pure Colour Envy lipstick collection (\$99 at **Shoppers Drug Mart**). It’s no trick with full-coverage crème in moisturizing shades. 2888 Granville St., 604-738-3107. Beauty.shoppersdrugmart.ca

CLÉ DE PEAU

In its Rêve de Kimono collection, **Clé de Peau Beauté** collaborated with master kimono-maker Kyoto Tachibana. Inspired by a tatou (a folded paper case for wrapping a kimono), the Draped in Velvet eye colour quad’s folded paper case (\$110 at **Holt Renfrew**) opens to reveal a dear depiction of the kimono. 737 Dunsmuir St., 604-681-3121. Holtrenfrew.com



deck the boughs

TRIM YOUR TREE WITH
BEAUTY THIS CHRISTMAS



Fenty’s limited-edition Lil Stunna Mini Underdawg lip paint (\$20 at **Sephora**) is no underdog. Its precision wand makes it ridiculously easy to create the perfect pout that won’t feather or fade, while its soft, matte pigment in deep burgundy is the perfect ornament for you or ... you. 1045 Robson St., 604-681-9704. Sephora.ca



Scented treats to spark a smile! This little festive treasure (\$14) is filled with cherry blossom beauty must-haves: bath and shower gel, shimmering lotion and hand cream in a keepsake **L’Occitane** holiday ornament. 3051 Granville St., 604-734-4441. Loccitane.com



The Body Shop’s holiday collection (starring a thoroughly modern Miss Santa!) includes boxed beauty sets that can be hung with flair. Each Soft Hands, Warm Kisses offering (\$15 each) contains a pocket-sized hand cream and lip butter in sweet mango, nutty Shea or juicy strawberry. 650 W. 41st Ave., 604-261-3381. Thebodyshop.com



Styled as stocking stuffers, we think these gift-wrapped **Benefit** minis (for brows, lashes, face and cheeks, from \$17 at **Sephora**) make the perfect accessories to hang on the tree. 1045 Robson St., 604-681-9704. Sephora.ca

BEAUTY & BOWS

VALMONT

In a tribute to minimalism, **Valmont's** limited-edition L'Elixir des Glaciers Votre Visage lacquer box (\$1,200) features decorative lines in the spirit of conceptualist artist Sol LeWitt. The face cream it houses contains glacial spring water, sea buckthorn and the brand's patented Triple DNA to fight age—and holiday frenzy. **650 W. 41st Ave., 604-233-6699. Lamaisonvalmont.com**

CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN

For the famed shoemaker (those red soles and all) holiday beauty comes in the form of a limited-edition Loubiléopard collection including nail, lip, eye and fragrance products (from \$32 at **Holt Renfrew**) in vials, bottles and boxes so pretty, you'll want to hang them from the tree. **737 Dunsmuir St., 604-681-3121. Holtrenfrew.com**

CHANTECAILLE

From this family-run French brand, the 2019 holiday collection includes two luxe, luminous compacts: Éclat Doux powder-balm and Éclat Brillant highlighting powder (\$124 each at **Holt Renfrew**). Each is packaged in a giftable case that—get this—features a one-of-a-kind gold-flake pattern across its top. **737 Dunsmuir St., 604-681-3121. Holtrenfrew.com**

LISE WATIER

Montreal-based **Lise Watier's** Stardust universal lip balm (\$26 at **London Drugs**) features a paraben-free hydrating formula enriched with vitamin E that leaves lips soft and luminous in a natural pink hue—all from its glittery gold case. **1187 Robson St., 604-448-4819. Londondrugs.com**

FLORAL STREET

From Wonderland Peony to Electric Rhubarb, **Floral Street's** nine fragrances (\$99 each at **Sephora**)—in bottles wrapped with a flower mural by London photographer Matthew Donaldson—feature only sustainably sourced raw materials. That goes for the British brand's pretty packaging, too: it's vegan, reusable, recyclable and compostable. **1045 Robson St., 604-681-9704. Sephora.ca**

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Dreaming of an Off-White Christmas

IVORY ACCENTS AND NEUTRAL FURNISHINGS ARE THE SECRET TO SOPHISTICATED SEASONAL DÉCOR

BY JEANINE GORDON

R

Refined holiday home décor is taking over the red, green and flashy tinsel ornaments of Christmases past. This year, forgo clichéd decorations and adopt a chic approach to decking your halls, with luxe neutrals taking the main stage.

Stephanie Vogler, co-founder of **The Cross Décor & Design** in downtown Vancouver, explains the appeal of an off-white colour palette for the holidays: “Our lives are so busy, so coming home to a tranquil and monochromatic environment can feel very soothing. It also allows an easy transition from season to season.”

“A clean, neutral décor scheme creates a sense of calm and visual quiet ... and we have increasingly imaginative ways of holiday decorating,” agrees **LivingSpace** sales and design consultant Albert Yee, while over at **Briers Home**



PHOTOS: THE CROSS



PHOTO: IKEA



PHOTO: URBAN BARN

Furnishings home designer Missy Kennedy describes another important effect of tone-on-tone décor: creating space.

“We know that a monochromatic colour scheme increases a small space visually,” she says. “Many people are bringing in this design style to make a home feel more expansive.” Indeed, the appearance of a larger space is something that many city dwellers crave, driving this trend that eschews the cluttered feeling of traditional holiday décor.

To ace luxurious, neutral Christmas decorating, Nathan Marchio, a representative of **Urban Barn** says, “It’s using different materials and textures in similar tones to create a cohesive look. People no longer want holiday décor that stands out against their existing style. People want to keep the flow of their homes.” The result? Holiday decorating with timeless pieces like pillows, lighting and textiles rather than snowmen and Santas.

The easiest way to achieve a festive-yet-modern feeling when decorating for the season is to keep it tone-on-tone with wintery whites. Invest in ivory-hued items that you can have in your home year-round, like rugs and furniture, then play with pops of colour and plush textures, sprinkling more whimsical seasonal items in sparingly.

For the holidays, Vogler says, “Our customers are adding interest to their spaces with texture and layers. Adding chunky knit throws and soft pillows really give a space a lived-in look that invites us and our guests to relax and stay awhile.” That said, we love the classic cosiness of the \$150 buffalo-check birch throw at **The Cross**.

“Wood-finished furniture with textured rugs and textiles have a lot of impact in a monochromatic space,” Vogler adds, pointing to a coastal table (\$2,495 at **The Cross**) that provides a blank slate for a tonal tray, candles and a smattering of sentimental holiday items.

For floors, a luxe, off-white hand-knotted wool and silk **Shangri-La** area rug (\$8,700 from **East India Carpets**) creates a cohesive look that makes the perfect backdrop for holiday pieces. **East India Carpet’s** **Asha Sidhoo** Fraser says, “This look is easy to match with tree decorations and other Christmas accents to give a blended look with not much effort this busy season.”

Adding a dash of cheery Christmas hues makes your neutral décor pieces pop. “For me it’s about choosing the right shade of red,” Marchio says. “A deep, rich tone is key. I also suggest carrying the same accent colour from room to room to create unity in different spaces in the home.” Our picks: the \$26 **Clooney** toss pillow in amaryllis from **Urban Barn** and, from **Ikea’s** latest holiday collection, a glass tree-shaped serving bowl (\$10) filled with red-and-white peppermint candies.

Next step: decorate your table with metallic touches for added dimension and festive sparkle. Kennedy’s holiday must-haves include tapered candles and winter-inspired holders—like a pair of \$70 antler taper candlesticks from **Briers** that add just the right touch of shimmer to a holiday tablescape.

We also like, from **Ikea**, a gold-hued tea-light holder, for only \$13. Working in reverse, white dinnerware laid atop a simple patterned cloth (like **Ikea’s** sustainable-cotton **Vinterfest** tablecloth, \$25) can turn your table into a festive work of art.

Finally, we aren’t alone in our love for all things warm and cosy when it comes to holiday decorating. “Our customers are drawn to our faux-fur line that adds warmth and softness to their existing décor,” says Marchio. Our snuggly pick: a faux-fur tree skirt for \$89 from **Urban Barn**. Off-white never felt so festive. ❏

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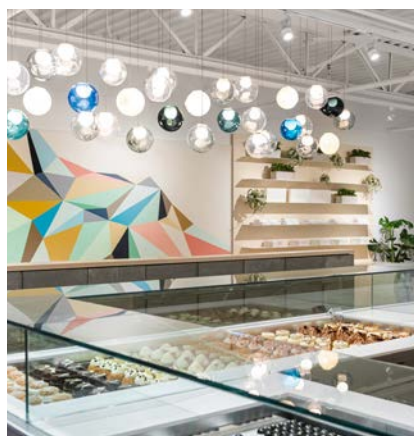
DÉCOR & DINING

New Noshes

WHERE AND WHAT TO EAT THIS SEASON

BETA 5 2.0

Industrial Avenue has become much sweeter with the opening of **BETA5 2.0**, offering an ever-evolving menu of chocolates and cream puffs complemented by a coffee and hot chocolate bar in a merry and bright space. Taste the mouthwatering wares straight out of the cold countertop or build your own box to go. Wash it down with a velvety hot cocoa featuring B5's custom dark blend. Admire the company's pastel-coloured polygon highlighted on the walls by artist Scott Sueme while you peruse the holiday menu: strawberry milk tea, pavlova and matcha sesame cream puffs, plus a limited-edition Rudolph chocolate centrepiece. **409 Industrial Ave. Shop.beta5chocolates.com**
NOA NICHOL



COLETTE X MOËT

Colette is home to a special guest this holiday season. Courtesy of **Moët** and sister LVMH brand **Guerlain**, the standup Champagne vending machine is stationed in the café all December, dispensing drinks to complement a prix-fixe menu that celebrates French excellence. The five-course meal includes dishes that pair well with champs, made with ingredients inspired by the notes in favourite Guerlain fragrances. Included: one gold token per guest to pop into the machine for a mini bottle of Moët. A perfect Christmas shopping pick-me-up! **737 Dunsmuir St., 604-678-0316. Colettegrandcafe.com** LYNDI BARRETT

NUTCRACKER TEA

You could go to the ballet—or, you could celebrate the story of the season with a *Nutcracker*-themed tea at **Notch8**. This playful twist on a high tea features holiday décor and decadent fare served on a Christmas-tree tier: porcini mushroom hot cocoa, ginger Mont Blanc babka, salted caramelia on cocoa sable, a Christmas cake chestnut drum and a “Snow Queen” cranberry pistachio almond nougat. There’s even a kids’ menu, with tot-friendly sandwiches, scones and sweets. Pirouette your way to this festive offering before the curtain closes, December 31st. **900 W. Georgia St., 604-647-0517. Notch8-dining.com** NOA NICHOL



PHOTOS: CATHRYN SPRAGUE



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TRIPS & SIPS

Power of the Pop

FROM CHRISTMAS DINNERS TO PARTIES, CHOOSE A WINE THAT LIVES UP TO THE OCCASION

BY LAURA STARR

S

Sparkling wine is a good fit any day of the year (in our humble opinion) but, during these festive weeks, it holds a special power to impress. Choosing a wine for a party or special occasion can be daunting, though, especially given how many sparkling styles exist and how diverse guests' tastes can be—but the right bottle will stop people in their tracks and create smiles that last all night. Step one: know your audience. Two: get adventurous and pick a wine no one else will have snagged. Here are three unique and enchanting sparklings that will turn heads and impress palates. ♡



SUMMERHILL CIPES ARIEL 2000

Here's a bottle (\$92 at private liquor stores) that's local and from an organic winery that clarifies its wines in a perfect one-eighth replica of the great pyramid. Having spent almost 20 years in the bottle, this one is opulent, yet still maintains that fantastic B.C. fruit and acidity. Summerhill.bc.ca

CRÉMANT DE LOIRE BRUT BLANC "DE CHANCENY" MAGNUM

Not only is the wine impressive but the bottle is a magnum, boasting 1.5 litres of Loire Valley bubbling gold for only \$55 (at private liquor stores). It's vibrant, with a balance of herbal savoury notes and fresh fruit. It is also new to the B.C. market as of November 2019. Robertetmarcel.com

PIERRE PAILLARD "LES PARCELLES" BOUZY GRAND CRU

Champagne is always a showstopper and this powerful bottle lives up to expectation, especially being under \$70 (\$68 at BC Liquor Stores). Rich, toasty brioche balanced with crunchy apples and lively acidity, spicy undertones and a creamy finish. Champagne-pierre-paillard.com

LIP SERVICE

Wear your drink on your lips, too. Toast to good cheer with eos' holiday Champagne Pop balm—a mocktail mixed with notes of sparkling bubbly and a hint of juicy peach nectar. Evolutionofsmooth.com

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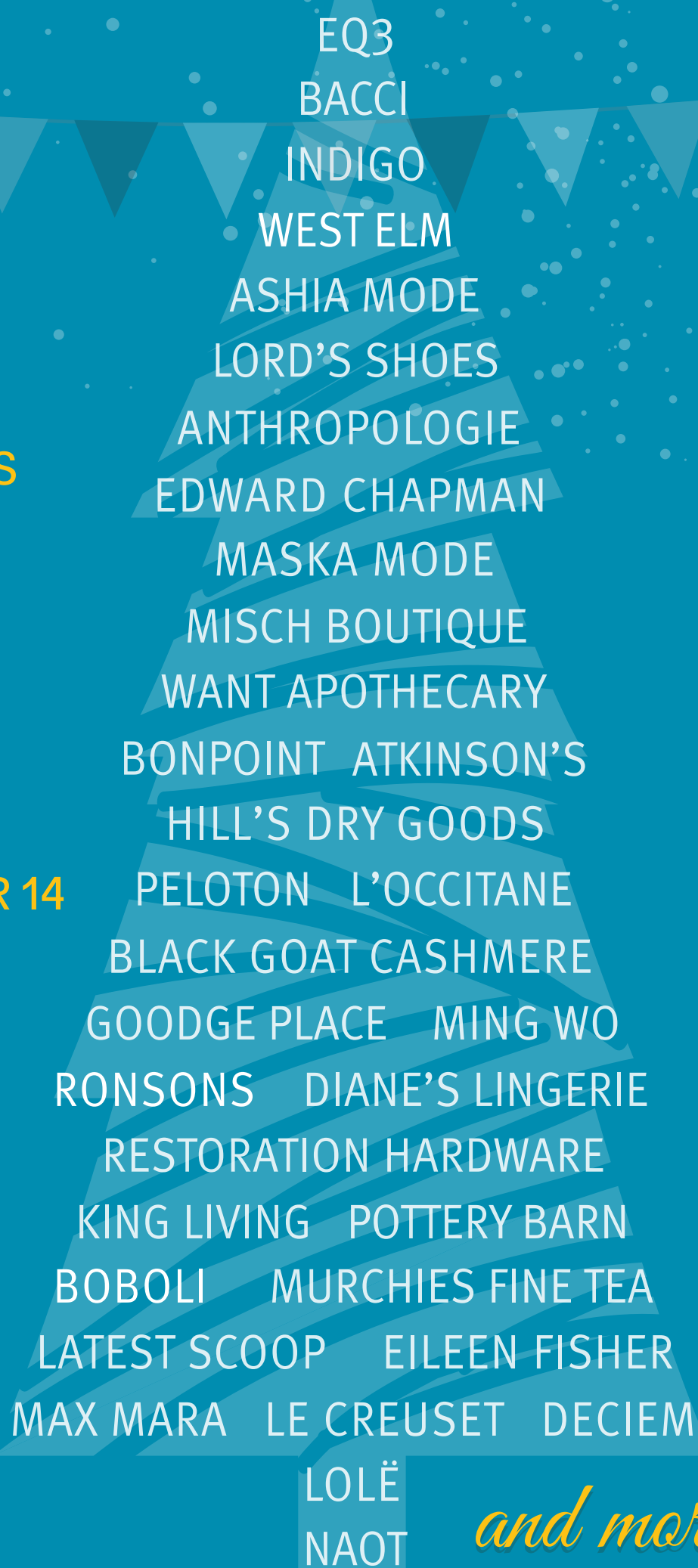
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