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The
december
Issue

INSIDE *the* ISSUE

STYLE This *holiday season, go for gifts of gold*

FASHION Why your base layer matters, and *how to choose the right one*

TECH The *season's hottest and haute-est tech toys*

SIPS Nothing says *fa-la-la-la-la quite like a sparkling wine*

TRAVEL Step back in time, and *into nature, in California*



OCTAVA
CRYSTAL

BULOVA
BOLD AT HEART



Editor's DESK

A Note From Noa

It's that time of year again! To celebrate the holidays, and to thank YOU for reading and following along with us all year, we're counting down, online, to December 25 with daily contests, featuring fabulous prizes from incredible brands! Enter as often as you like over on Instagram (@vitadaily.ca), and be sure to tag your friends for bonus entries. The best part? Even if you aren't our daily winner, you'll still get great gift ideas from our countdown, with items to suit every name on your list. Good luck, and happy holidays!

Noa Nichol EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Watch to Wear

Fashion journalist Eli Gomez Garcia teaches us how to up our time game with a watch for every occasion

BY NOA NICHOL

With smartwatch users on the rise, why do you love a traditional watch?
I find them to be elegant and their designs to be unique and timeless. In addition, we're seeing a tendency to take breaks from technology, so why do we need more distractions on our wrists? I love wearing and styling traditional watches because they have this intrinsic vintage feeling that's so in vogue—a watch is a fashion statement!

What details do you like in a watch?
Minimalism. I want my watch to be easy to manipulate. For me, the beauty of a traditional watch is that all the components tend to be harmonic and well integrated. I don't want my watch to be heavy; it should rest easily on my wrist.

Your top wristwatch styling tips?
Try to match your watch to your outfit. My wardrobe is mainly neutrals, therefore I buy watches with white or black dials to match with my clothes. If you have different colours in your closet, determine what hue you wear most and



look for a watch face to match it. For many watches you can acquire different straps in a variety of colours and ma-



terials. I often wear leather straps with casual outfits and metal ones with more elegant fits.

Your favourite watch to wear daily? What about one for holiday parties?
Bulova for a modern, trendy look. The Gemini is a great option. Citizen Eco-Drive also has some amazing options, like the Corso. For events, you can never go wrong with a Frederique Constant piece, like the Classics Art Deco Carré. You won't go unnoticed!

For New Year's Eve, is there a particular sparkling timepiece you have set your sights on for the big countdown to 2023?

I'll be wearing my favourite watch: the Accutron 521 Legacy Edition, available at Maison Birks. This watch is a limited-edition replica of a timepiece worn by Elvis Presley in the 1960s. Mine has a golden metal strap, but you can also buy it with different coloured straps. It's really a unique watch, not only because of its history but the classic and bold design. I wear my Accutron to all of my important events. Citizenwatch.com / Bulova.com / Accutronwatch.com / Frederiqueconstant.com

THE MAKING OF THE
December Issue
No. 84 ————— 2022

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VITA
PUBLISHED BY
VITA DAILY MEDIA INC.
CANADA POST PUBLICATIONS
MAIL AGREEMENT #42849020

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Gilded Gifts

This holiday season, *go for gold*

1.



1. **BP. VELOUR CROP SWEATSHIRT, \$45** Soft, supple velour gives a cosy feel to this cropped sweatshirt. [Nordstrom.ca](#)

2.



2. **BANG & OLUFSEN BEOPLAY H95 ULTIMATE OVER-EAR HEADPHONES, \$1,199** Moving, masterful, mesmerising. Get lost in the music with adjustable noise-cancelling headphones that redefine grab-and-go listening. [Bang-olufsen.com](#)

3.



3. **CHANEL N°5 THE GOLD BODY OIL, \$120** A shimmering oil whose voluptuous, sensorial formula enhances skin with a satiny veil, enveloping your body in the sensual notes of N°5. [Chanel.com](#)

4.



4. **KÉRASTASE ELIXIR ULTIME ORIGINAL HAIR OIL, FROM \$42** This shine-enhancing oil leaves a fragrant halo for up to 24 hours. [Kerastase.ca](#)

5.



5. **MAC FIZZY FEELS LIP BALM, \$30** A holiday exclusive hydrating lip balm with a pH-reactive formula. The hue: Taste for Bubbles. [Maccosmetics.ca](#)

6.



6. **TWEEZERMAN ULTRA PRECISION POINT TWEEZER, \$47** Ideal for short tricky stubble, ingrown hairs and baby-fine strays, this is an essential tool toward brow perfection. [Tweezerman.ca](#)

7.



7. **TIFFANY HARDWEAR WRAP BRACELET, \$13,300.00** This bold bracelet is a modern interpretation of an archival design from 1971. [Tiffany.ca](#)

8.



8. **VITRUVI X MEJURI MOVE ESSENTIAL OIL DIFFUSER, \$182** Portable beauty. This collaborative diffuser is cordless, allowing you to scent every corner of your home. Try with the special Séjour essential oil blend: it smells like gold earrings and a good book. [Vitruvi.ca | Mejuri.com](#)

9.



9. **LOUIS VUITTON SPARKLE PUMP** Distinguished by its pointed toe and flared heel, silver-tone metal details further elevate this elegant model that is available in leather, suede and sequin styles. [Ca.louisvuitton.com](#)

10.

10. **FABLE FLATWARE SET, \$310** This golden stainless-steel set serves four and will stay rust and stain-free years of holiday meals to come. [Fable.com](#)

12.



11. **BANANA REPUBLIC RAGGIERA PLEATED DRESS, \$330** Glistening with feminine appeal—a corset-style waist, a leg slit and sunburst pleating—this radiant maxi dress is a sight to behold. [Bananarepublic.ca](#)

13.



12. **AMARULA PLANT-BASED, \$30** Amarula, the world-renowned maker of cream liqueurs, presents its vegan-certified plant-based innovation for the holidays. An exotic taste sensation with gentle notes of caramel, vanilla and creamy coconut, finished with complex notes of Marula fruit. A welcome offering for those with dairy-, gluten- and nut-free dietaries to indulge and enjoy. Available at BC Liquor stores. Cocktail recipes featuring Amarula Plant-Based can be found online. [Amarulacanada.ca](#)

14.



13. **DYSON SUPERSONIC HAIR DRYER 23.75K, \$600** Five styling attachments (including the new flyaway attachment), intelligent heat control and a powerful Dyson digital motor in an exclusive blue/gold colourway? Yes, please! [Dysoncanada.ca](#)

15.



14. **BULOVA MILLENNIA, \$796** This stunning watch features a mother-of-pearl dial with gold-tone accents and is set with four sparkling diamonds. [Bulova.com](#)

16.



15. **DIOR PRESTIGE LA CRÈME TEXTURE ESSENTIELLE, \$180** This anti-aging face moisturizer and intensive repairing cream, made with 88 rose molecules, rose sap and peptides, helps rebuild the structure and function of younger skin. [Thebay.com](#)

17.



16. **RUDSAK MABS WOMEN'S NEOPRENE & LIGHT DOWN JACKET, \$475** Ideal for mild days and layering in colder temps, this jacket, in a rose-gold hue called Toffee, is insulated with a high-loft blend of RDS-certified down and comes with a removable hood. [Rudsaq.com](#)

17. **FURLA 1927 MINI CROSSBODY BAG IN TONI CHAMPAGNE, \$328** Available in stores in December, The Furla 1927 line is animated with bold colours, Golden Ares and Paillettes that add a "special event" touch. [Furla.com](#)

All About That Base

Why your base layer matters, and how to choose the right one for you

BY AILEEN LALOR

When you were a kid, did your mom tell you to wear an undershirt when the weather was cold? That's basically what you're doing when you put on a base layer. "It's the layer of clothing you wear next to your skin," explains Emily Rodsted, category manager at MEC Label. "They wick away moisture, help regulate your body temperature and keep you warm and comfortable."

Many people think their coat keeps them toasty in winter, but Rodsted says something called a three-part system is key. This comprises a base (tight-fitting leggings and shirts), mid-layer (like a vest, hoodie or down jacket) and outer layer or shell (some kind of waterproof jacket). "For colder conditions base layers are arguably the most important part of your three-part system," she says.

Snowboarder and photographer Abby Cooper agrees. "Layers make or break your comfort—especially in the elements. There's nothing worse than a wet, sticky layer next to your skin. It's the quickest way to end up shivering all day, even if you've stacked a million layers on top. Trust me, I've tried to correct my layering 'wrongs' this way and it never works."

As for the cotton you wore as a kid, Cooper says it's actually a terrible fabric for keeping you warm and comfy. She prefers merino wool, which is used in Arc'teryx's Rho series (Cooper is an ambassador for the brand), and she integrates it into her everyday wardrobe as well as for activewear. "I especially love the merino top as a layer for running errands around town," she says. "It tucks into my high-waisted jeans and I often wear a Cerium or Beta jacket on top for easy on-the-go layering around town."

What are the technical benefits of merino? "It is the ultimate thermal regulator for both warm and cold climates. It keeps you warm and dry in cold, damp environments and cool and dry in warm, humid environments," says Mike McLellan, Smartwool's B.C. representative.

"It's naturally antimicrobial, too, and with the finer weaves you get now, it doesn't give you that scratchy wool feeling—it has a nice hand-feel," adds Rodsted. "When people hear the word merino they think of cold weather, but I hiked the West Coast Trail at the end of June and am now a full convert to merino for hiking."

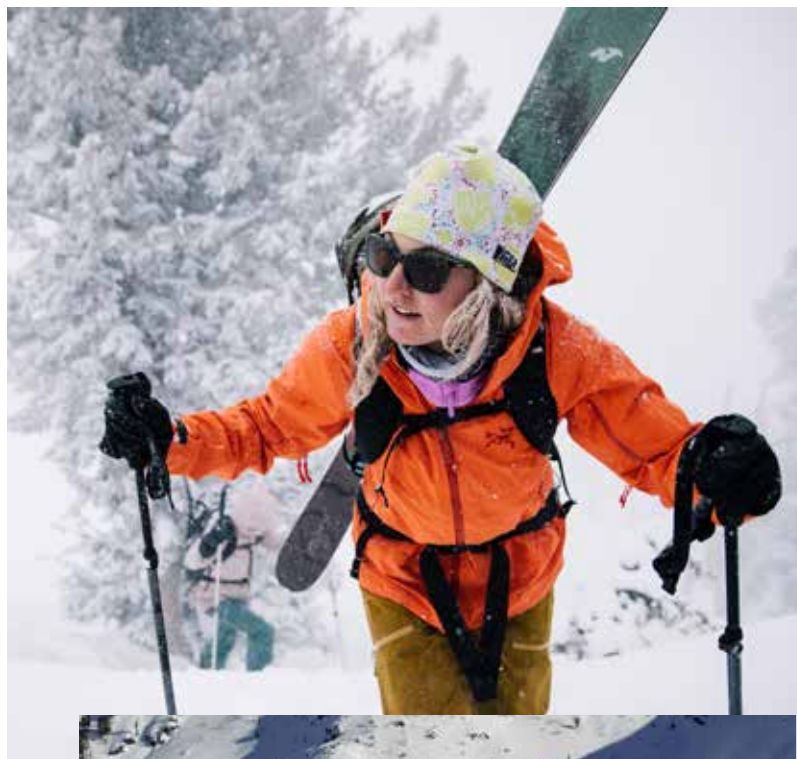
Cooper points out that it's also a sustainable material, which is important to her and all people who love the great outdoors. "We need to start from the ground up, or base layer out, and think about the big picture: how what we wear to recreate impacts the places we recreate in," she says.

Merino dries relatively quickly but it's usually slower to do so than synthetic (polyester) base layers, which are cheaper and often more durable, too. They don't have the naturally anti-stink properties of wool, but Rodsted says you can get them with treatments that reduce smells; MEC Label's T0 range has coffee grounds woven into the yarn for odour control and also incorporates recycled materials.

If you'd rather get the natural benefits of merino with some of the plus-points of synthetic fabrics, Rodsted recommends a blend. "It's more durable than full merino because the synthetic component helps it hold its shape. It's really the best of both worlds."

You can wear a base layer when you're drinking hot chocolate in your house or if you're camping in winter, but you'll need different ones. Things to consider include the design of the fabric, the weather and your output. Output means how vigorously you'll be exercising; Rodsted cites running and Nordic skiing as high output, so you need a lighter fabric, while snowshoeing or inbound resort skiing would be lower output.

"All of the Rho layers are really versatile in their use, making them a solid investment in my day-to-day comfort," says Cooper. "For winter camping or cold, cold days—I'm looking at you Rockies!—I live for the heavyweight pants. The fleece is perfect for these conditions. On a day-to-day resort or backcountry, I love a good hooded layer so the lightweight hood is my go-to—keeps my neck extra warm in the wind." She points out that shape is important. While hoods and high necklines make her feel cosy, they make some feel claustrophobic. And the fit is crucial, too; nothing baggy. McLellan says it should be giving your body a gentle hug.



It can be hard to determine exactly how warm a base layer will turn out to be in real conditions since you're trying it on in a cosy store rather than an icy mountainside. Rodsted says fabric weight is usually measured in grams per square metre (GSM); the higher the number, the warmer you'll stay. "It is daunting to choose because there's so many," she says. "With MEC Label, we've colour-coded with a band across the back of the neck. Yellow is warm, orange is warmer and red is warmest. It's also just helpful to talk to someone in a store about what activity you're doing and what you need."

Cooper says she's excited that you can now get base layers that look good. "They're more and more lifestyle-oriented and less techy; while they hold that tech in their structure, they are much more fashionable and interesting," she says. "I'm also a big fan of sneaky pockets, and a few of the base layers now have arm pockets for passes or lip chap as well as leg pockets—super handy." ▽

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Haute Cou-tech

The season's hottest and haute-est tech toys

BY SHERI RADFORD

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1. THERABODY THERAFACE PRO PERCUSSIVE MASSAGE DEVICE, \$550 One charge delivers up to two hours of facial treatments: relaxing massage, skin-toning microcurrent therapy, rejuvenating light therapy and deep cleansing. [Bestbuy.ca](#)

2. DR. DENNIS GROSS SKINCARE DRX SPECTRALITE FACEWARE PRO, \$555 This LED device might just be the fountain of youth in mask form: stimulating collagen production, calming redness, clearing acne and reducing wrinkles and discoloration. [Thebay.com](#)

3. SMEG ELECTRIC KETTLE, \$250 This kettle brings retro charm to the simple act of boiling water. [Thebay.com](#)

4. GOOGLE NEST THERMOSTAT, \$180 With this smart thermostat, changing the temperature is as easy as lounging on the couch and saying, "Hey, Google, turn up the heat." [Homedepot.ca](#)

5. URBANISTA MIAMI HEADPHONES, \$200 In eye-catching shades like ruby red and teal green, these noise-cancelling, splash-proof headphones boast up to 50 hours of playtime. [Bestbuy.ca](#)

6. KITCHENAID DESIGN SERIES BLOSSOM STAND MIXER, \$1,000 Cooking is an art, right? That's why KitchenAid's latest addition to its range of Design Series Stand Mixers, Blossom, blurs the line between appliance and art through unique colour, finish and materials. [Kitchenaid.ca](#)

7. DRYBAR THE MIXOLOGIST INTERCHANGEABLE STYLING IRON, \$263 A trio of attachments allow this modular tool to deliver three different styles—classic curls, defined waves or beachy waves—while the ionic technology reduces frizz and adds shine. [Chatters.ca](#)

8. HUAWEI GT 3 PRO CERAMIC SMARTWATCH, \$799 This showstopper of a smartwatch transitions seamlessly from the ocean (down to 30 metres) to the opera, measuring health stats like heart rate and oxygen saturation—not to mention playing music and delivering text messages—along the way. [Bestbuy.ca](#)

9. HUAWEI FREEBUDS LIPSTICK EARBUDS, \$349 Experience the beauty of sound with these ergonomically moulded noise-cancelling earbuds that make music and phone calls sound great, then tuck them away to charge in their stunning lipstick-design case. [Bestbuy.ca](#)

10. CROSLEY CRUISER DELUXE TURNTABLE, \$120 This blast from the past also features some welcome modern touches, such as Bluetooth compatibility. [Chapters.indigo.ca](#)

11. LOLA MASSAGE GUN, \$125 Lightweight but powerful, this massager is just what the doctor ordered after a stressful day at work. Four heads and four speeds allow you to customize your perfect massage. [Chapters.indigo.ca](#)

12. SAMSUNG GALAXY Z FLIP4 5G 512GB SMARTPHONE, \$1,500 Be prepared to flip out over this ultra-thin foldable phone; available in a rainbow of colours, it excels at taking hands-free selfies. [Bestbuy.ca](#)

13. DIVOOM TIVOO MAX SMART PIXEL ART SPEAKER, \$200 Part pixel art display, part Bluetooth speaker and all fun, this ingenious little multitasker also works as a smart alarm and comes equipped with sleep aids and sound effects. [Chapters.indigo.ca](#)

14. INREACH MINI 2 COMPACT SATELLITE COMMUNICATOR, \$530 Global satellite coverage means you can stay in contact even when you're out of cellphone range—or completely off the grid. [Garmin.com/en-ca](#)

15. ENVO FLEX URBAN E-BIKE, \$2,799 This light, foldable e-bike is ideal for getting around the city, and it fits standard third-party accessories for transporting everything from a toddler or a dog to a surfboard or skis. [Envodrive.com](#)

16. THERMOMIX LIMITED-EDITION TM6 NOIR, \$2,099 For the first time ever the Thermomix TM6 is available in noir (black)—a trendy but timeless colourway. This machine not only impresses with its many cooking functions and features, but also fits perfectly into the overall design of your kitchen. Available only until December 15, or while supplies last; it's Noir or Never! [Thermomix.ca/noir](#)

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Silver Siren

Andie MacDowell is 64, stunning, and *more confident* than ever

BY AILEEN LALOR

It's mid-afternoon in Paris on a Sunday in early October when Andie MacDowell, an icon of my 1990s youth, joins our online chat. It's Fashion Week, and just hours later, she'll walk the runway for L'Oréal Paris, the brand she's worked with for decades, at the École militaire. The 270-year-old military complex is a French national monument, and MacDowell says it's never been used for an event like this before. "It's an honour to be here and get to walk with all the beautiful spokes-people and models. It's an honour to get to be in Paris," she says. "It's going to be a full-on event—very theatrical. My dress is very much an elaborate display of fashion. So, it's nice because it's not a super-serious event." It does have a serious message, however: the event is in partnership with Right To Be, a non-profit with the goal of ending street harassment.

MacDowell started her career as a model in the 1970s but says it's a long time since she's walked for a designer. "A lot of times [the models] walk down serious and stone-faced. They look angry almost. It's much more relaxed with L'Oréal. It's about being who you are and authentic to yourself—a little less pressure that way."

That's an idea that resonates deeply with MacDowell: being who you are. She says she's always been contemplative—a deep thinker—and, when she was younger, she thought a lot about who she would like to be in later life. "I used to look for women all the time and say, 'That's what I want to do,'" she says. "It could be someone at an airport. I would look over her and just think, 'That's it.' There was an essence of ... creativity to her, maybe. I hate using the word acceptance, but I can't think of a better one. Embracing. Comfortable. But glamorous at the same time."

Often these women would have silver hair, just as MacDowell has had since 2021, when she ditched the dye. "I think I feel more comfortable now with silver hair. It's not that it's for everybody, but it's what I've always wanted, and it was time for me to embrace this dream of who I was going to be as a mature woman," she explains. "It's like how I looked at my grandmother. To me, she was a very strong person. She wasn't a weak, frail person. Yet she was not ashamed of her age. That's who I want to be. I have no problem with where I am at this time in my life."

In fact, says MacDowell, the only sad thing she sees in growing older is the sense that time is running out. "But on that note, there is no time to waste feeling less than and not worthy, because you cannot waste a day not enjoying who you are and the skin you're in."

MacDowell has worked steadily for more than 40 years, but the last few years she's been on a career high, with critically acclaimed performances in movies like *Love After Love* and *Ready or Not*, and Netflix show *Maid*, where she costarred alongside her daughter Margaret Qualley and was Golden Globe nominated. "I do find myself more confident now," she says. "I feel more useful as well. I've lost count of how many [projects] I've done but it's well over 100. It's a long time. Sometimes I'll sit and watch things and see problems and I don't speak up because it's not my position. But sometimes I just can't help myself. I can see things because I know."



"I do like makeup—I wish I was better at putting it on myself. I am really not great! Especially when you work with artists that are gifted and talented in that way. I can't do what they do. But I enjoy it, particularly doing stuff with my eyes, playing with the colour of my eyes, and my lips. Most of the time I'll stay with natural lips that are close to my colour, but intensify them. I do like a red lip. I like a red lip with no makeup. It looks very French. Very chic"

I tell her it's inspiring to find someone so comfortable and confident in her 60s—someone who refuses to be dismissed. "I think I do have to sometimes fight the idea of what it is to be older. Especially if someone else is writing the material and they're younger and have no idea," she says. "I talk to my mature friends. We don't sit round and look in the mirror ... you can't be obsessing with the way you look. What you need to obsess over is how you feel. People will project things onto people in their 60s that are not our reality. It's all a projection. We don't feel old."

A couple of hours later, MacDowell is on the runway in a dress that is theatrical, dramatic and exuberant. Makeup artist Val Garland has created a dramatic look with silver liner. And MacDowell's corkscrew curls are big and wild. She's dancing, proud to represent this great French brand that she's worked with since 1986. And proud to be doing so in this grand and historic French complex. A national treasure, walking for a national treasure, in a national treasure. What could be more inspiring than that? v



A Lipstick is *not* a YES

Eighty per cent of women have experienced sexual harassment in public spaces, according to an international survey by L'Oréal Paris. That's why the brand has launched a limited-edition lipstick in the shade A Lipstick is Not a Yes. All of the proceeds from sales will go to non-profit Right To Be, which trains people in how to deal with street harassment. The bold red lippie is available at Shoppers Drug Mart, London Drugs and Rexall. You can also take a 10-minute digital training session against street harassment via the Stand Up website, which is supported by L'Oréal Paris and Right To Be. Standup-international.com

Is your daily coffee shop budget killing your caffeine buzz? Does happy hour make you sad when the bill arrives? Is your wallet getting more of a workout than you are? The hottest trend we're chasing right now is a healthy bank account. From home cooking, barware and coffee gadgets to tools for self-care and staycations and fashions that stand the test of time, *The Bay* is delivering tips and gifts that combat inflation during (*and beyond*) the holiday season. Because investing now, means saving later.



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NINTENDO
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CORE HOME
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Set, \$45.



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Hot Shops

Vancouver's latest and greatest retailers and restaurants

With so many Lower Mainland brick-and-mortar openings, we're switching up our format to ensure all of these retailers get a mention! Our first hot stops are on West 4th Avenue, where Arc'teryx, Life Story, Melanie Auld, Knix and Plain Jane have all opened or expanded. The Arc'teryx store stocks the largest selection of apparel and equipment of any store globally, from climbing gear to trail running, snow sports and accessories, and hosts Vancouver's first ReBIRD Service Center, offering a full suite of circular solutions for Arc'teryx products, from product care and repair education, through to free on-site product assessment, light-touch repairs, technical washing and re-waterproofing on-site. Life Story offers best-in-class personalized injectable treatments with highly trained medical professionals in a warm, elegant space. Knix is now in a spot nearly triple the size of its former store. And the Melanie Auld boutique is a showstopper; we're looking forward to getting "welded" with permanent jewelry there.

On South Granville, as we eagerly await the opening of Fable dinnerware, drinkware and décor, we're spending quality time perusing the new Value Village boutique, with a smaller footprint than its regular superstores and a focus on adult clothing and accessories.



LIFE STORY



THE APPLE STORE

Downtown, there's a new two-level Apple Store in Pacific Centre, boasting bespoke artwork across the façade (this includes 12 playful nods to Apple, including Apple Pencil, AirPods and Face ID Smile; can you find them all?) and a video wall where free sessions teach participants how to code, frame a shot and edit video. There's also a living wall with 144 species of locally sourced plants, which promotes bee and insect habitats and naturally absorbs heat and traffic noise. In Burnaby, Metrotown's new Vessi store pays homage to the brand's hometown, Vancouver, via a feature wall that mimics the mountains and, in addition to a full product range, limited-edition store-only items designed by local artist Cynthia Vo—pins, a tote and postcards. And in North Vancouver, Pure Shoppe, with cosy textiles, ceramics, artisanal pieces and Christmas decorations and trimmings sourced by designer Ami McKay, is in a newly expanded location.

Finally, in Richmond, two new retailers. First, a state-of-the-art Porsche dealership in the Richmond Auto Mall is one of the largest in Canada at 75,000 square feet. Three levels include a new and pre-used vehicle showroom, custom guest amenities, a special delivery area and 15 cutting-edge service bays. The building was specially designed to accommodate Porsche's full e-performance range of vehicles. And, open until mid-December in Richmond Centre is the Mine & Yours pop-up in the brand's largest space yet, at 5,000 square feet. The motto here: the bigger the space, the better the fashion, the greater the designer deals. NOA NICHOL



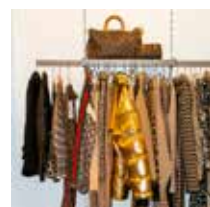
ARC'TERYX



PURE SHOPPE | PHOTO: JANIS NICOLAY



MELANIE AULD



MINE & YOURS

MILK BAR X NORDSTROM

The beloved New York-based Milk Bar has finally landed in our fair city and there's no better place to have your cake and eat it, too. Located on level one of Nordstrom's downtown Vancouver flagship, Milk Bar is fully stocked with fan favourites you may well know, and most certainly will love. Our recommendation if you're a first-timer? Order a few rich slices of Milk Bar pie—one is never enough—along with a compost cookie and a few densely decadent truffles to nibble on the way home (of these, there are gluten-free options, too). Feeling like a lighter snack? Opt for a cool cup of addictive cereal milk soft serve. No matter what, keep an eye out for the seasonal baked goods on offer, and if you have a special occasion coming up, why not pick up an entire sprinkles-laden birthday cake? If you're thinking of your sweet-toothed loved ones this holiday season, you can't go wrong with a build-your-own cookie box tied up with a Barbie-pink ribbon, or Milk Bar chef/owner Christina Tosi's *All About Cake* cookbook. When you're finished browsing and indulging, treat yourself to a sugar-fuelled stroll through Nordstrom's shoe and beauty sections, just around the corner. The perfect afternoon "coffee" break? We think so. 799 Robson St., 604-699-2100 ext. 1612. Nordstrom.ca KATIE NANTON



Time for Style

BY NOA NICHOL

French-Austrian designer Marina Hoermanseder, worn by Lady Gaga and our own cover star, Paris Hilton, is back with her second collab with Swiss watchmaker Rado: the Rado Captain Cook x Marina Hoermanseder Heartbeat.

Hoermanseder loves playing with colour, forms and materials, and this latest Rado design embodies her upbeat aesthetic per in a state-of-the-art time-piece. Featuring a rainbow of precious stones, white high-tech ceramic in its rotating bezel, PVD-finished contrasts and that famous box-shaped sapphire crystal, this new watch boasts, at its centre, a very original second hand, ticking away in stylish playfulness (it resembles a heartbeat and Hoermanseder's own signature). Delightful.

The best part? The watch comes supplied with three different strap options.



The first is a polished/brushed yellow-gold-colour PVD-coated stainless-steel bracelet with a polished stainless-steel triple-fold clasp. An additional black double-length leather (with embossed alligator motif) strap equipped with Hoermanseder's trademark buckle in yellow-gold-colour PVD-coated stainless steel. A third black standard-length leather strap is also included, with the same embossed alligator-motif surface and a yellow-gold-colour PVD-coated stainless steel pin-buckle. The watch, which retails at \$3,800, is delivered in a handsome Marina Hoermanseder-branded black pouch. Rado.com

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Star Scents

From celebrities to brands, signature scents are nosing their way into the fragrance aisle; here's what it takes to make them

BY VICKI DUONG & NOA NICHOL

Whether it be for home or wear, choosing a signature fragrance is a personal process largely dependent on what notes you gravitate toward and the “vibe” you want to exude. But what goes into creating a signature scent for a celebrity—or an entire brand?

The last few decades have seen a shift from, simply, famous spokespersons to fully celeb-owned beauty brands taking up shelf space in the fragrance aisle. Jennifer Lopez launched, through Coty, Glow by JLo in 1998; in 2004 it was Paris Hilton's turn, with an eponymous perfume in partnership with Parlux. Elizabeth Arden and Britney Spears followed suit with Fantasy, in a Swarovski crystal-adorned bottle, in 2005. Fast-forward to 2021, when Rihanna's seductive, sweet Fenty Eau de Parfum sold out not once, but twice, after its release through her own massively successful beauty brand. Now, in addition to restocking the fragrance, the Bad Gal has also released a special gift set featuring a limited-edition Fenty scarf wrapped around the signature amber-hued bottle—just in time for holiday gifting. Renowned master perfumer and the “nose” behind the Fenty scent, Jacques Cavallier, shares that creating a signature fragrance for Rihanna was anything but traditional. Rather than focusing on creating a formula with a top, middle and heart note, he aimed to create something where every raw material was integral to the end result.

“From a creative point of view, I've seen few people like her. I wanted to celebrate the woman she is,” he says. “My starting point was quite clear: Rihanna has to be in the bottle. My work was really this translation of her, so sparkling, dynamic, sensual. We made something radiant, something essential. This perfume is a love elixir. And what I liked the most is to have the personality, the allure, the silhouette of the perfume in the air—but, on skin, it has to be a personal story.”



For Slate Brands marketing specialist Emily Collins, personifying a scent is about how a celebrity sees themselves and what they hope to portray to their audience. “We typically ask the creator to describe themselves and their existing brand in a minimum of a few words or sentences to understand their general goals,” she shares. When developing a perfume with Hayley Kiyoko, for instance, Slate Brands—a full-service beauty incubator for innovators and creative entrepreneurs—let the American singer, dancer and actress take the creative lead on the formulation of her scent, Hue. “There was a lot of thought that went into the making of Hue, but gender-inclusive was non-negotiable for Hayley. She wanted a scent that was bold, complex and empowering, but also blurred the lines between femininity and masculinity,” says product development manager Marcella Bijou. “Hayley felt very strongly about incorporating fruity and floral notes but didn't want the fragrance to be overly feminine. The fresh florals and citrus are an ode to more feminine scents, but the musk and cacao on the bottom offer some masculinity as well, making it the perfect genderless fragrance.”

When it comes to formulating a fragrance for an established brand, the same questions are asked in order to develop an aroma that evokes the company's ethos and energy—in other words, its products, services and what customers understand it to represent. In creating its first signature scent, The Amber Collection, with fellow Canadian and fragrance designer Ruby Brown, Le Germain Hôtels aimed to incorporate the feeling of “resting easy” into a line of luxury bodycare products. “Scent is very intimately related to emotions and to memories; now that the Amber Collection is available [in all of the hotels] across the country, you can get the same home-away-from-home feeling [at all Le Germain properties],” says Brown, adding that the range can also be purchased at Simons “for your home to feel like a holiday.”

The Vitruvi x Mejuri collab has a unique challenge in the fact that neither company is, say, a physical space (like a hotel), or a person. The puzzle: how to create a joint signature scent that represents both entities to two presumably unique sets of customers? The brands—Vitruvi a provider of home-scenting products, and Mejuri offering fine jewelry—solved this by partnering on an oil blend, Sèjour, that invites one to linger and savour the precious moments that occur daily. The blend is recommended to be used in a limited-edition Move cordless essential oil diffuser—gold and luxurious, “like the jewelry you never take off,” and available on both websites.

“From making your morning routine feel special to being the centerpiece at your dinner party, Move elevates your life's everyday moments,” according to Mejuri's site. “It's the feeling of home—no matter where you are,” reads Vitruvi.com. “Lingering a little longer. Sinking into a velvet armchair. Gold earrings and a good book.” We clearly see both brands represented in, well, the branding of this joint effort.

Justine Lançon, chief creative officer at Mejuri, adds that the Vitruvi client and Mejuri client are more alike than different, and this assisted in the effort to create an inclusive signature. “We wanted it to be a scent you can live in every day that brings you comfort and confidence, just like our jewelry,” she says. “We wanted it to embody a sense of playfulness, curiosity and grounded-ness. It is designed to be for everyone and anyone. We are excited to incorporate this scent in all of our retail stores as well.” What can we say? It makes good scents. V

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Sparkle Season

When it comes to celebrating the holidays, nothing says fa-la-la-la quite like a sparkling wine. Here are five to get festive with this year (*plus* two cocktail recipes, for good cheers)

BY NOA NICHOL

1. Made true-to-style using Traditional Method techniques, Liquidity's Reserve Sparkling Brut (\$45) has lovely aromas of browned butter shortbread, Meyer lemon and Jazz apple. The palate is bursting with bright fresh acidity, balanced with notes of crème brûlée and honeysuckle. Liquiditywines.com

2. When you've got big celebrating (or holiday relaxing) to do, this is the wine for you. Road 13's Traditional Method Sparkling Chenin Blanc (\$45) brings just the right amount of refresh and relax. Grapes for this sparkler were hand-picked at optimal acidity and ripeness, then gently whole-cluster pressed to capture the fruit's delicate aromas and flavours. Road13vineyards.com

3. Each one of Mission Hill Family Estate's vineyards has a distinct microclimate, lending unique flavour characteristics to the Pinot Noir used in this Brut Rosé (\$40). A summer bouquet of raspberries, peach and freshly cut watermelon, the effervescence and bright acidity develop in to an uplifting and crisp finish. Missionhillwinery.com

4. This very modern Spanish Cordon Negro Cava (\$18) is from a blend of three indigenous Penedes white-grape varieties. Find fine, delicate aromas combining tones of green apple and pear with light resonances of Mediterranean fruits (peach, melon and pineapple) over a base of citrus. Freixenet.ca

5. Fruitiness, freshness and complexity are the defining characteristics of Segura Viudas Brut Reserva (\$17), but the prime feature is its elegant and persistent mousse. The aromas are of white fruits, citrus and tropical fruits, and light floral notes. The palate is exquisite, complex, full of flavour, with good acidity and notes of lime and pineapple. Seguraviudas.com



Dillon's Manhattan

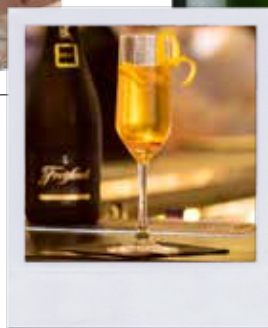
2 OUNCES DILLON'S RYE WHISKY
1 OUNCE DILLON'S SWEET VERMOUTH
2 DASHES DILLON'S AROMATIC BITTERS
COCKTAIL CHERRY OR ORANGE PEEL, FOR GARNISH



In your mixing glass, add the Rye Whisky, vermouth and bitters. Add a handful of ice and stir for 20 seconds. Strain your cocktail into a chilled coupe glass and garnish with cherry or orange peel. Dillons.ca

Puttin' On The Ritz

MARTELL VSOP COGNAC
HAZELNUT SYRUP
FREIXENET CORDON NEGRO CAVA
1 SUGAR CUBE
ORANGE BITTERS (OPTIONAL)
ORANGE PEEL FOR DECORATION



Pour the hazelnut syrup and the cognac in a flute. Top up half of the glass with Cordon Negro. Add the sugar cube into the glass. Top up with Cordon Negro. Twist the orange peel and garnish. Freixenet.ca

VITA X CLAIROL

Root of the Matter

Pro tips from Clairol's Carin Freidag for hair-colour touch-ups

Hi Carin! Today we're talking about root touch ups. What products does Clairol offer in this category (we count at least four online, from a permanent product to a powder to a gel and a spray!)? What are the differences between them in terms of who and what they're for, and how do they work?

Yes, indeed! Clairol offers a range of products to address every person's root needs. Our permanent products include creams in a wide range of shades and tones, designed to match top-selling competitor shades. These are good for up to 100 per cent grey hair and those who use colour to lighten their hair, as well as current at-home or in-salon permanent colourers. Applied with a brush, these permanent creams take just 10 minutes to restore colour and provide 100 per cent grey coverage.

Next, Permanent by Natural Instincts, designed to match the top-selling natural gray coverage shades and perfect for people with up to 100 per cent grey hair and permanent colour users who don't want to use a colour with ammonia. Also applied with a brush, Permanent by Natural Instincts covers grey without ammonia in 20 minutes. Semi-permanently speaking, our colour blending gel—in three browns, one black, one red and one blonde—is designed to match natural hair colour. It's best for those with what we call first greys (up to 30 per cent), who are concerned with damage and nervous to use permanent product. It's a simple squeeze tube with a brush—no mixing, no ammonia—and it blends away greys and lasts 10-plus shampoos.

Finally, our temporary products: a colour-refreshing spray and a powder, both designed to match natural hair, both suited to those who colour their hair at home or in salon, and both lasting one shampoo. The spray provides instant on-



the-go coverage; the powder, applied with a brush, instantly covers roots—and can also define your eyebrows!

Do you have some pro/expert tips for usage around root touch-up products of different kinds?

My top tips: when you are about to apply either a permanent or semi-permanent product, do an allergy test 48 hours before you colour; no matter which type of root touch up you are using, start by styling your hair as you usually wear it; and start your application where you are greyest, and then go from there. If you wear your hair up, say, to a holiday

party, don't forget to apply all the way around the hairline or wherever you would, and then have a part line if your hair is half up. Remember: the temporary root touch-up products are water resistant, which means they need a shampoo to be removed. If you know you have very stubborn greys, you can leave both the permanent and the semi-permanent on an extra 10 minutes. If you have a lot of grey on your temples and hairline and want to use a temporary root touch up, try the powder, which comes with a precision brush and a mirror in the case. And finally, don't forget about your eyebrows!

As we enter holiday party season, why are root touch-up products a festive lifesaver?

The hustle and bustle of the season can often mean less time focused on you! Root touch up is great for looking great at the last minute for a gathering or party. If you wash your hair frequently or have no time to spend at the salon, then either of the permanent root products will get you through three weeks without seeing those pesky greys. And, if you don't colour your hair yet but want to cover those first greys coming through, all of these options can be used to spot colour. If you are a bit hesitant, start with the temporary versions. Clairol.ca



Gold Rush *Chic*

Step back in time, and into nature, with a stimulating and soul-soothing jaunt through California's Gold Country, Yosemite and the High Sierra

BY LISE BOULLARD

If you're craving culture, outdoor adventure, shopping, dining and some relaxing spa time, look no further than California's Tuolumne County. Just a two-and-a-half-hour drive East of San Francisco, many of the towns—including Jamestown, Grovetown and the County Seat, Sonora—were established during the 1950s gold rush when Americans from Eastern states, including Mississippi and Missouri, travelled by carriage to make a better life for themselves. Today, much of the area's history, including the Boomtown-style architecture and friendly small-town charm, remains. Whether you want to go antiquing on Washington Street in Sonora, hike a misty trail along Pinecrest Lake or head off for a hair-raising 4x4 Jeep adventure, there's an activity to stimulate any and all of the senses.

STAY

Nestled in the sleepy mountain town of Sonora (pop. 3,000), the Hotel Lumberjack makes a comfortable home base from which to explore Tuolumne County's historic towns and the iconic Yosemite National Park. A nod to old Americana, the rooms in the converted motel have been updated with rustic design touches like natural wood panelling, emerald-tone velvet love seats and forest-inspired wall art. Super-comfortable Sealy Posturepedic mattresses and body pillows ensured our group was well-rested for the adventure-filled days ahead, and large walk-in showers with eco-friendly bath products soothed our sore muscles post-hike.



EXPLORE

A spectacular (and thrilling) drive up winding mountain roads with sweeping vistas of the Sierra Nevada, and through misty old growth forests brought our group to the Hetch Hetchy trail head. One of Yosemite's lesser known—and less crowded treks—the 400-metre elevation jaunt offers pristine views of the dam and the majestic mountain range. Later on, the adrenaline junkies in our group loved getting behind the wheel of a Jeep 4x4 and following the (very kind) owners of Miller's Off Road Adventures as they led us along bumpy roads through the rolling dry brush of the Stanislaus National Forest. The next day, we sharpened our axe throwing skills at the newly opened (and haunted, according to the owner, Lloyd) Hatchet's Throw House.

HOME ACCESSORIES WITH PERSONALITY



SPA

Situated in a wooded hillside along Highway 120, the Rush Creek Lodge and Spa offers rustic luxury in the heart of nature, and its on-site Rush Creek Spa is a soul-soothing place where you can soak the stresses of urban life away. The spa's many indoor-outdoor water features are inspired by Yosemite's natural elements—from the park's waterfalls to its granite formations to its rivers and hot springs. Our group had the chance to try some of the spa's personalized offerings: we crafted our own aromatherapy oil blends using recipes designed for us and then chose from three Wellness Journeys that guided us through the spa's Aromatherapy Steam Room, Himalayan Salt Block Sauna, Cool Mist Room and Warm Waterfall Coves. Post-spa, we sauntered into the crisp forest air feeling blissed out and ready for our next activity.



DINE

There's no better way to fuel a day of exploring than with a nourishing and delicious breakfast at Alicia's Sugar Shack in Twain Harte (yes, that's the name of the Twilight-esque town). Just a 20-minute drive from Sonora, the café serves up house-made breakfasts and a seemingly endless selection of flaky pastries. We especially loved the acai smoothie bowl, loaded with fruit and sprinkled with coconut, and the sticky maple-bacon cinnamon bun, which tasted even better while sitting next to the café's wood-burning fire. After a day of activities our group refuelled at the area's local eateries: The Service Station in Jamestown, which offers local wine, craft beer and comfort food classics including a Philly Cheesesteak sandwich, and The Armoury in Sonora where we sipped on fun cocktails like Palomas in pig-shaped glasses, from the adjoining Bourbon Barrel. And there was no better place to celebrate the gold discovery of days' past—and our discovery of this amazing part of the world—than with a cider tasting in an elevated barn-style structure on the expansive grounds of an apple orchard at Indigency Reserve, followed by a wine tasting at the top of a hill with a panoramic view of the vineyard at Gianelli Vineyards. V

Details
BY MR. K

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