

OCTOBER 2009

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Anatomy of a SCENT

Hit the perfume counters
with *MC's* guide to finding
your perfect match



Fragrance DECODED

Streamline your sniffing and zero in on exactly what you want By Courtney Dunlop



If you are ...

A FREE SPIRIT

Try: Lively, fruity fragrances infused with citrus—like lime, mandarin, and grapefruit—or sweeter, more distinctly girly strawberry and raspberry.

Can't go wrong with: Miss Dior Chérie

■ Citrus is the oldest official fragrance family, dating back to colognes in the 1700s.

If you are ...

EARTHY WITH AN EDGE

Try: Sensual woody fragrances that lend an androgynous touch with notes typically found in men's colognes—oak moss, sandalwood, cedarwood, and vetiver are a few.

Can't go wrong with: Serge Lutens Féminité du Bois

■ Indian sandalwood (very rare due to overharvesting) costs around \$1700 per kilogram.

If you are ...

A GLAMOUR-PUSS

Try: Opulent Oriental fragrances that make a bold statement. Think warm, spicy scents with exotic notes like musk, vanilla, and clove.

Can't go wrong with: Guerlain Shalimar

■ Created in 1925, Shalimar is the world's first Oriental fragrance.

If you are ...

A CLASSIC FEMME

Try: Ever-popular floral fragrances with pretty, feminine notes evoking freshly cut flowers, such as rose, jasmine, peony, and lily of the valley.

Can't go wrong with: Estée Lauder Pleasures

■ It takes 4 tons of damask rose petals to make 1 kilogram of oil, and the flowers can only be picked by hand.

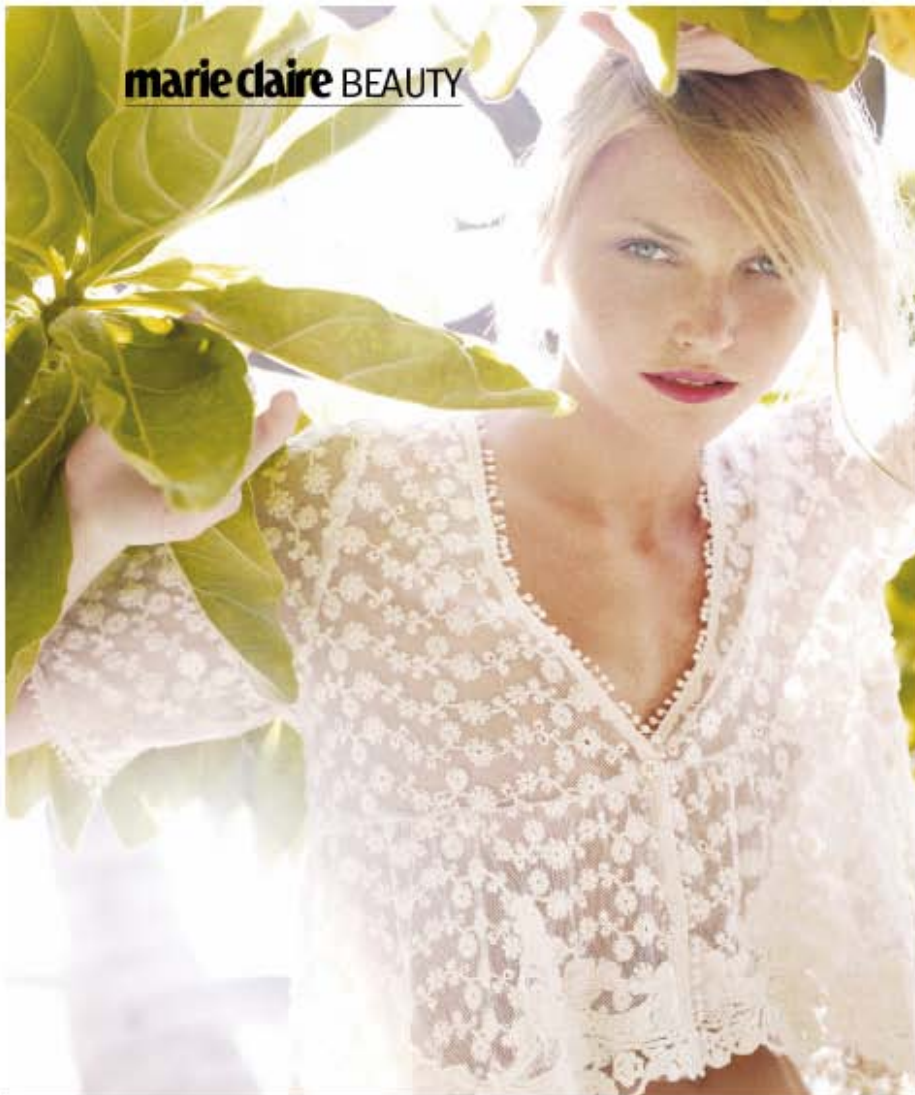
If you are ...

A NATURE LOVER

Try: Clean, sparkling fresh fragrances with notes that range from marine-inspired to crisp and green (e.g., grass and green tea).

Can't go wrong with: Giorgio Armani Acqua Di Giò

■ Ozonic notes (found in many aquatic fragrances) are synthesized to smell like wet air after a thunderstorm.



takes some experimenting!). You can also try layering your spray with a matching body lotion—the oil in the lotion gives the scent extra staying power.

STOCK UP

If you find a scent you absolutely adore, buy multiples and save yourself the agony of finding out down the road that it's been discontinued or reformulated.

MAKE IT LAST

A perfume's worst enemies are light and heat (especially in steamy bathrooms!). Keep your bottles in a cool, dark spot and they could last a lifetime.

TRAVEL WITH EASE

Frequent flier? Stick to solid

The spritzing points

These tips will turn you into an olfactory expert

GIVE IT TIME

Don't judge a fragrance on the first whiff alone (the top notes). Scents change drastically within the first half-hour as they reveal middle and bottom notes, so apply a test spray, then walk around for a bit to see if you like it over time.

KNOW YOUR STRENGTH

The longest-lasting and most expensive formulation is parfum, which has the

potential to cling all day. Next comes eau de parfum (lasting from six to eight hours), then eau de toilette (four to six hours), and finally eau de cologne and body splashes, which stick around for one to three hours.

BE A MIX MASTER

Fragrance aficionados have been known to wear two different scents at once to create a unique formula known only to them (it

perfumes or small roll-on concentrates. And if you do buy a traditional spray, ask for a handful of travel-friendly samples at the counter.

SPRITZ WITH CAUTION

Contrary to popular myth, rubbing your wrists together doesn't "crush top notes." But the heat from the friction will make the scent fade faster, so lightly press—don't grind.

Edited by Ying Chu