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BEAUTY

Seasonal Scents

Warm up your winter with fabulous fragrances review by Emily Hirschmann

So the world turns, a new season is presented and out come the winter woollies. It's not all bad though; the weather may be miserable and your hair fighting with frizz, but at least you have an excuse to buy some new perfumes. Warm and fruity is the order of the day and we have some super scent-suous suggestions.

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Di Palomo Wild Fig and Grape Irresistible Eau de Parfum (50ml/£22.00) – The perfect perfume for a winters day should be warm and hearty without being overpowering. It's a fine line to tread, particularly when the most obvious constituents have something of an edible nature, with dark fruits and vanilla working so well together it's not difficult to topple over from 'gourmand' to downright foodie and no one wants to smell like a dessert.

Lifting what could have been something of a heavy scent, the lightest touch of mimosa transforms **Di Palomo's Irresistible** from a deeply fruity occasional-wear scent into a fragrance that will see you through the winter. The accord is somehow both warm and airy, with no hidden notes to shoehorn it into a fixed market. With graceful and appealing packaging and the price surprisingly low, there is nothing not to like.

*Top notes: Grape, Gardenia
Heart notes: Ripe Fig, Orange Blossom, Mimosa
Base notes: Sandalwood, Amber, Vanilla*

To buy online, or find your nearest stockist, visit [www.dipalomo.com](#)

Guerlain La Petite Robe Noire Eau de Parfum (50ml/£60.00) – Claiming to be the 'Little Black Dress' of anything is a biig statement, the phrase 'timeless classic' is overused, but if it applies to anything in this modern world, it has to apply to the LBD, the ultimate depiction of elegance, versatility and grace. For this sexy little number, Guerlain's in-house god of olfactory delights, Thierry Wasser, has opened with the frivolous and flirty with a fizzy Black Cherry and Bergamot blend, before drawing you into an amorous Rosy heart and a serious, seductive Anise, Tonka, Vanilla and Patchouli dry down...

As such, it's very difficult to place, which is probably the intention. This isn't a youthful scent; there is something a little too knowing and worldly behind the frolicsome front, it would seem incongruous on a teenaged body, but then neither is it strictly mature. For me, this is the Anna Karenina of fragrance; dramatic and gorgeous with a complex and confusing dark undertone. Would I wear it every day? No. Would I wear it when I wanted to make an impression? Oh god, yes.

*Top notes: Black Cherry, Bergamot, Bitter Almond, Red Berry Fruit
Heart notes: Rose, Black Tea, Liquorice
Base notes: Anise, Tonka Bean, Vanilla, Iris, Patchouli*

For more information and a list of stockists visit [www.guerlain.com](#)

Lush Vanillary (10ml/£12.50) – You know we were talking about foodie scents earlier? Well, it would appear that some people really do want to smell like a dessert, a great big vanilla pudding in fact! **Vanillary** is essentially **Lush's** gift to the sweet-toothed and while I can't think that anyone would want it on a hot summers day, when you're wrapped up in your winter woollies there is something rather comforting about it... Although perhaps that's just the Cabbage Patch Kid memories it evokes.

For all that, there is something slightly grown up about this scent too, the very subtle mingling of Jasmine at its core lifts it away from the top notes that would quickly become overpowering, while the dry down is a softer, creamier version of the heart. There will be some who turn up their noses in horror at the very idea of this scent, but for me it's a real grower.

*Top notes: Vanilla & Brown Sugar
Heart notes: Vanilla, Jasmine, Tonka Bean
Base notes: Vanilla, Sandalwood*

To buy online, or find your nearest store, visit [www.Lush.co.uk](#)

Clinique Happy (50ml/£36.00) – If, for you, winter is all about sharp, clean air and crystalline skies, all this talk of warmth, red fruits and vanilla is going to do little for you, so allow me, instead, to recommend **Clinique's Happy**. A classic in every way, this is a light, fresh, 'clean' scent which stays close to the skin rather than assaulting others senses. The notes are zingy red grapefruit and sweeter boysenberry with a green and floral mix; a complex blend of ingredients that somehow render a simple scent.

And as with many of the simpler things in life, it is also timeless and ageless; unlike it's flirty offspring Happy in Bloom, Happy seems just as at home on my Mum as it does on me.

*Top notes: Red Grapefruit, Bergamot, Mandarin Tree Blossom, Laurel
Heart notes: Boysenberry Bush Flower, Morning Dew Orchid, Melati Blossom
Base notes: Hawaiian Wedding Flower, White Cinnamon Lily, Chinese Golden Magnolia, Spring Mimosa Blossoms*

To buy online, or find your nearest stockist, visit [www.clinique.co.uk](#)

Korres Vanilla Freesia Lychee (50ml/£24.00) – Without being blatantly foodie, there is something rather appetizing about **Korres Vanilla Freesia Lychee**, and it's not just the vanilla. Although light and zingy, the Lychee and Peach are almost mouth-watering in their appeal, bringing to mind a fresh fruit salad topped with a decadent vanilla cream, which is pared down and prevented from being exaggeratedly gourmand by the smoky Freesia and Patchoulinotes.

Moderate sillage makes this into something of a grown-up, intimate scent, which caresses the skin and invites people closer, rather than bombarding with a barrage of smell. All Korres products are free from parabens, silicones, mineral oils, phthalates and all the other common nasties, as well as being dermatologically tested and suitable for vegans, making this a feel-good scent in many different ways.

*Top Notes: Bergamot, Tea
Heart Notes: Jasmine, Peach, Lychee, Freesia, Sandalwood
Bottom Notes: Vanilla, Patchouli, Musk*

To buy online, or find your nearest stockist, visit [www.korres.com](#)

Oriflame Amber Elixir Eau de Parfum (50ml/£19.00) – Warming from the get-go, this scent is everything one would expect from one with such a name, rather than lurking in the musky base as it is often want to do, the amber is present throughout. Cavorting with the lighter, fruity notes of Mandarin and Blackcurrant at the open and sliding down to mingle with the Sweet Almond heart, before settling seductively with Heliotrope and Musk to softly breathe its last.

For all its yielding sensuality, **Amber Elixir** is a heavy fragrance which can not be ignored; slightly soporific, it can stupefy the senses if used in overabundance, so a little goes a long way. For me, it brings to mind the slinking of a cat, twining around stockings ankles, smooth and sensuous... But not everyone likes cats. If you like Amber you will love this, if not...

*Top notes: Amber, Mandarin, Blackcurrant
Heart notes: Sweet Almond, Liquorice, Amber
Base notes: Amber, Heliotrope, Musk*

To buy online, or find your nearest stockist, visit [www.oriflame.co.uk](#)

Superdry Neon (40ml/£35.00) – The first in what will hopefully be a long line of feminine scents for this iconic British brand, Neon is a collection offering something for everyone. The four fragrances – **Neon Pink** (Oriental Amber), **Neon Orange** (Fruity Citrus), **Neon Blue** (Fresh Floral) and **Neon Purple** (Creamy Ozonic) – each have a distinct personality, covering the full occasion gamut, from spring time flirting to winter snuggling, all tied together with an unmistakeable femininity.

I've yet to try the complete collection, so this is really just a heads up rather than a review, but of those I have had the pleasure of introducing to my dainty little nostrils, I would definitely like to get to know a little better.

To buy online, or find your nearest stockist, visit [www.superdry.com](#)

And for the Boys...

Korres Vetiver Root Green Tea Cedarwood (50ml/ £29.00) – It's unusual to find a perfumier with a natural, holistic approach to their craft, but then fragrances are just one of the strings to the Korres bow. Woody and aromatic in character, this Eau de Toilette is redolent of leather hiking boots and autumnal walks. Filled with the stimulating earthy freshness of Vetiver and the crispness of Green Tea, there is warmth to this scent as of wood smoke tingeing bitter cold air, brought by Cedarwood and Oak Moss, followed by a rich Tonka Bean and Amber dry down.

It reminds me of gathering and eating cobnuts and the pleasurable sting of sitting by an open fire on a cold night, it's a soothing scent that you can't help but want to snuggle up to.

*Top notes: Bergamot, Cardamom, Green Tea
Heart notes: Lavender, Cedarwood, Vetiver Root
Bottom notes: Tonka Bean, Amber, Oak Moss*

To buy online, or find your nearest stockist, visit [www.korres.com](#)

Superdry Orange (40ml/£29.50) – A new addition to the Superdry stable, this is a simple scent without pretention. Opening with a zingy bitter-sweet Blood Orange punch, the impact of which is mitigated slightly by an infusion of Frankincense, it's the blazing Black Pepper heart that will really grab the attention, while the softer base notes add an intimacy and depth.

This isn't a quietly spoken fragrance and although the medium strength sillage means that it won't be irritating people on the other side of the room, everyone will be aware of its presence. Without being brash, it is as bold and intense as its bright orange bottle.

*Top notes: Blood Orange, Frankincense
Heart notes: Black Pepper
Base notes: Sandalwood, Patchouli*

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