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INDEPENDENT

Reader

Matt Damon

'I don't know why people like me'

MUSIC Laura Mvula
From gospel choir to Glastonbury

BOOKS Simon Schama
On breaking the rules of history

+
The 50
Best
Fragrances

From Miller Harris to Tom Ford, stylist **Beth Dadswell** picks sexy scents and classic perfumes for men and women

Fragrances

Modern

Maison Francis Kurkdjian Aqua Universalis

liberty.co.uk, £105 for 70ml eau de toilette
Aqua Universalis quite literally smells 'luminous', largely due to the inclusion of lily of the valley, mock orange and Sicilian lemon.



Bottega Veneta Eau Légère

harrods.com, £54 for 50ml eau de toilette

This floral chypre will appeal to those that like their scent to be sensual and feminine. Gardenia, musk and oakmoss give it an earthy, warm heart.



Givenchy Dahlia Noir

boots.com, £42 for 30ml eau de parfum
Riccardo Tisci, creative director of French fashion house Givenchy, has worked with Francois Demachy to bottle the essence of the brand in his first fragrance.

Stella McCartney Summer

selfridges.com, £40 for 100ml eau de toilette
If you fancy a blast of zingy tropical colour on your bathroom shelf, treat yourself to a bottle of Stella's updated summer fragrance.



Bobbi Brown Beach

selfridges.com, £48 for 50ml eau de parfum
The smell of suntan lotion and sand is neatly encapsulated in this bottle, and one squirt will transport you (metaphorically speaking) to your favourite beach.

Next week
The 50 Best... Garden gear



Byredo Inflorescence
 liberty.co.uk, £130 for 100ml eau de parfum
 Pink freesia, lily of the valley, magnolia and jasmine infuse this new launch with delicate scents of spring, blended to create a punchy statement.



Eight & Bob
 Conranshop.co.uk, £125 for 100ml eau de toilette
 The simplicity of this men's fragrance, with chic modern packaging, belies the fact it was conceived in the 1930s by a Parisian aristocrat.



Blood Concept Red + Ma
 averyonlinestore.com, £58 for 30ml perfume spray
 The distinctive packaging here represents the inspirations behind this quirky scent: blood and milk. Sounds ghoulish, but it is rather nice.



Hermes Jour d'Hermes
 Hermes.com, £47.50 for 30ml eau de parfum
 A vivacious floral 'juice', from perfumer Jean Claude Ellena, Jour d'Hermes is perfect if you like to smell like armfuls of freshly cut flowers.



Le Labo Rose 31
 Liberty.co.uk, £95 for 50ml eau de parfum
 Inspired by the Grasse Rose, this traditional ingredient has been modernised and turned on its head with the addition of cumin, olbanum and cedar.



Viktor&Rolf Flowerbomb La Vie en Rose
 Selfridges.com, £55 for 50ml eau de toilette
 A summer version of the Flowerbomb fragrance, with even more emphasis on floral notes. This is a powerful choice for the summer.



Maison Martin Margiela Replica Flower Market
 Selfridges.com, £65 for 100ml eau de toilette
 The Replica fragrances by Martin Margiela are inspired by nostalgic scents; Flower Market evokes the smell of freshly cut wet blooms.



Comme des Garçons Amazing Green
 Houseoffraser.co.uk, £57 for 50ml eau de parfum
 This is a bold, unpredictable scent. Top notes of green pepper and jungle leaves dry down to smoky base notes of vetiver, smoke and white musk.



Agent Provocateur Petale Noir
 Johnlewis.com, £32.40 for 30ml eau de parfum
 Floral, with violet, magnolia and rose taking centre stage. But after a couple of hours, the ginger and leather notes kick in for an oriental, spicy twist.



Marni
 Harrods.com, £68 for 65ml eau de parfum
 The hotly anticipated first perfume from Marni has finally hit stores, and rather lovely it is too. The fragrance cleverly mixes bergamot, pepper, rose and cardamom.

Classic



Acqua di Parma Colonia
 Houseoffraser.co.uk, £50 for 50ml eau de cologne
 If you like your man to smell sophisticated but masculine, buy him this gorgeous blend of citrus, lavender, rosemary and sandalwood.



Lanvin Arpege
 Houseoffraser.co.uk, £50 for 50ml eau de parfum
 A floral, fruity scent created for Jeanne Lanvin in 1927, this classic feminine perfume blends jasmine, lily of the valley, vanilla and patchouli.



Penhaligon's Bleinheim Bouquet
 Penhaligons.com, £80 for 100ml eau de toilette
 Created in 1902, this is one of Penhaligon's most popular men's scents, with its citrus top notes and pine base notes.



Guerlain Mitsouko
 Houseoffraser.co.uk, £52 for 50ml eau de toilette
 An initial burst of peach is soon replaced by the warmth of spices patchouli and labdanum, which linger languorously on your skin.



Sisley Eau du Soir
 Spacenk.com, £75 for 30ml eau de parfum
 Elegance and refined glamour ooze from this classic French fragrance. A floral chypre, this starts with a burst of citrus and dries down to an amber musk.



Thierry Mugler Angel

Boots.com, £44 for 25ml eau de parfum

This star-shaped bottle is as iconic as the fragrance itself. One of the first mass market 'gourmand' perfumes to use candyfloss and chocolate.



Chanel No 5

Harrods.com, £67 for 50ml eau de parfum

One of the world's best-selling fragrances, this floral scent was groundbreaking in Paris in 1920. A 'classic' perfume creation of the 20th century.



Dior Eau Sauvage

Johnlewis.com, £38.25 for 50ml eau de toilette

Crisp citrus notes blend effortlessly with lavender and warmer woody notes in this elegant men's fragrance. Loved as much by women as by men.



Jo Malone Lime, Basil & Mandarin

Jomalone.co.uk, £38 for 30ml cologne

Endlessly imitated but never bettered. Instantly recognisable mix of peppery basil, fresh lime and sweet mandarin.



Yves Saint Laurent Rive Gauche

Johnlewis.com, £32.50 for 30ml eau de toilette

The woody fragrance has a hint of rose at its heart and was inspired by the bohemian crowd on Paris's Left Bank.

Unisex



Comme des Garçons Series 4 Vetiveru Cologne

Liberty.co.uk, £32 for 125ml eau de cologne

My personal choice for spring. A fresh, zingy blend of bergamot, cardamom oil, cedarwood and vetiver.



Prada Infusion d'Iris

Johnlewis.com, £57 for 50ml eau de parfum

If you prefer a subtle wash of scent on your skin to a fanfare of loud, clashing notes, Infusion d'Iris may be for you. Inspired by classic men's fragrances, but with a twist.



Molton Brown Mahina

Moltonbrown.co.uk, £60 for 60ml eau de toilette

Described as 'navigations through scents, from London via Tahiti', Mahina is exotic and other-worldly. Top notes of orange blossom, jasmine and vanilla, with cedarwood.



Tom Ford Café Rose

Harveynichols.com, £135 for 50ml eau de parfum

Gorgeous smoky fragrance balances masculine and feminine notes. It is seductive and sexy without being too obvious, and subtly mixes rose with a smoky wood base.



Serge Lutens Santal Majuscule

Houseoffraser.co.uk, £83 for 50ml eau de parfum

If you like woody scents, you will adore this rich, sensual scent with a hint of bitter cacao at its heart to offset the warmth of the sandalwood.



Calvin Klein CK One

Boots.com, £17.25 for 50ml eau de toilette

The original 'Unisex' scent, sharing CK One was revolutionary to 1990s teenagers, when it was groundbreaking to smell androgynous.



Malin & Goetz Synthesized Geranium Leaf

Liberty.co.uk, £37 for 30ml eau de toilette

Delightfully fresh. Cyclamen, geranium and coriander are subtle bedfellows.



Diptyque Vetyverio

Diptyqueparis.co.uk, £50 for 50ml eau de toilette

Two different types of vetiver - earthy Indonesian and a subtle, musky Haitian - blended with ylang ylang and rose produce a tropical scent.



Jo Loves Pomelo

Joloves.com, £45 for 30ml

Confident and sharp, this grapefruit-infused scent smells as good on guys as on girls. Masculine vetiver and suede is lifted by rose and warmed by clove and patchouli.



Miller Harris Fleurs de Sel

Millerharris.com, £65 for 50ml eau de parfum

An earthy, masculine scent inspired by a small village in Brittany. With rosemary, clary sage, iris nobilis and moss.

Limited edition



Jo Malone Ginger Biscuit Cologne

Joalone.co.uk, £38 for 30ml cologne

One fifth of the Sugar & Spice collection, this is suitably warm and reminiscent of grandma's kitchen.



Carolina Herrera 212 Summer

0207 494 6220, £34.50 for 60ml eau de toilette

If you can't decide if you prefer woody, fruity, citrus or floral perfumes, try this concoction, combining all four!



Escada Cherry in the Air

Thefragranceshop.co.uk, £24.50 for 30ml eau de toilette

If you are looking for an inexpensive gift for a teenage girl, choose this. It smells sweet and fruity and was inspired by cherry blossom.



Creed Millesime Imperiale

Creedfragnances.co.uk, £187 for 120ml spray

Add a touch of glamour to your dressing room with a gold limited edition bottle of Creed's Millesime Imperiale.



Clinique Happy in Bloom

Clinique.co.uk, £25 for 30ml parfum spray

Another inexpensive feminine fragrance, this is packaged in an eye-catching limited edition botanical-print bottle.

Luxury



Dries van Noten par Frederic Malle

Lessenteurs.com, £110 for 50ml eau de parfum

Belgian fashion designer Dries van Noten and 'nose' Bruno Jovanovic have created this sublimely sexy fragrance, with a woody, warm scent.



Chanel 1932

0207 493 3836 from Chanel Boutiques, £205 for 200ml eau de toilette

This new fragrance - inspired by jewellery - features pear mingling elegantly with jasmine, iris and musk is a thoroughly modern classic.



Armani/Prive Rose D'Arabie

Houseoffraser.co.uk, £175 for 100ml eau de parfum

Contains notes of Damascus rose, saffron, patchouli and amber, and is heavily influenced by the intoxicating scents of the Middle East.



Ormonde Jayne Tsarina

Ormondejayne.com, £280 for 100ml eau de parfum

This gorgeous blend of suede, cassis, labdanum and musk notes, by high priestess of perfume Lynda Pilkington, is just as opulent as the price tag. Get saving now.



Maison Francis Kurkdjian Oud Silk Mood

Franciskurkdjian.com, £275 for 70ml extrait de parfum

Laotian Oud is the most expensive and rare Oud. This has a vibrant luminosity, with rose, chamomile and papyrus.

Budget



Chloe Love Chloe My Little

Harrods.com, £25 for 20ml eau de parfum

Frequent flyers and perfume junkies will be thrilled to hear the three Chloe fragrances are available in mini versions.



Korres Iris/Lily of the Valley/Cotton

Bathandunwind.com, £30 for 50ml eau de toilette

All Korres fragrances are free from mineral oils, silicones, and animal products. Smells nice, and rather inexpensive.



Neom Lavender, Jasmine & Brazilian Rosewood

Neomorganics.com, £30 for 100ml

Body oils moisturise skin and leave you with a gentle glow. This one's a bargain.



DKNY Art Men

Theperfumeshop.com, £33.50 for 100ml eau de toilette

Connoisseurs will appreciate this quirky packaging. Its original Keith Haring artwork was inspired by New York's energy, as was the fragrance.



4711 Nouv Eau Cologne

garden.co.uk, £13 for 50ml cologne

An update of this classic cologne with notes of blackcurrant, geranium and sandalwood. Napoleon was a fan of the original, apparently.