

LILLIPUT & FELIX



van der postings

Lucia van der Post, the grande dame of luxury, delivers a trio of first-class dispatches

It is high summer and time for joyfully fresh fragrances in keeping with the mood of holidays and happiness. Enter a whole new breed of citrusy scents. Not, of course, that these notes are anything new – Louis XV's gardener planted groves of orange trees to satisfy his master's need for a new perfume every day, and many of my favourite fragrances have hints of citrus. What is new is the sophisticated way citrus is now being used, adding touches of drama rather than forming the main plot. And while these scents are traditionally not very long-lasting, today's perfumers run the citrus vertically through a fragrance so that the dry-down can be just as uplifting as the initial spritz.

Leading the charge is Cologne Indélébile (€155 for 100ml extrait de parfum), created by the great Dominique Ripon for Frédéric Malle. The premise was to produce an opulent cologne-like scent that is fresh and timeless but also complex and enduring. Ripon has taken the deep, musky base he used in Géranium pour Monsieur and Portrait of a Lady and layered it with zesty orange-zest oil, neroli, lemon and bergamot. This is one to splash on and fall in love with.

Roulier White has three lively new additions. Laboratorio Olfattivo's Nobile (€90 for 100ml EDP) is so named because its creator, Marie Duchêne, aimed for something poised and elegant. It opens with bergamot, orange and lemon, then comes the woody aroma of musk-mallow seeds, soft neroli, iris and lavender, while in the dry-down there's a complex base of creamy vanilla, earthy iris wood, buttery tonka bean and a sensual white musk.

Party (€115 for 50ml parfum), from Swiss brand Senteifique, is packed with bitter tangerine peel, giving it a celebratory, upbeat vibe, while precious

magroli blossom, pimento and sparkling aldehydes add to the summer freshness. And from Spanish perfumer Jimmy Boyd comes the carefree Made in Ibiza (€40 for 200ml EDT), a bright, breezy scent that captures the essence of the island. Lemons and bergamot dance across the top, in the middle lies mandarin and at the base are verbena, thyme, amber and vanilla. The bottle has a stalk of thyme running through it.

Also from Spain is Entre Nazarjes (among the orange trees, €130 for 50ml EDP), from Barcelona's master perfumer Ramón Monegal, which sees orange blossom sharpened by orange zest, lemons, neroli and amber.

Lastly there is Carthusia's Bergamotto (€60 for 100ml EDC) inspired by Capri, where the scent of citrus is everywhere. Top notes of bergamot, orange, lime and sunny angelica are softened by a bouquet of jasmine, clay sage and star anise. Base notes of cedar and amber add a certain elegance to the mix.

Carthusia, www.carthusia.it and see Roulier White, Frédéric Malle, www.fredericmalle.com and see Les Senteurs, Harrods, www.harrods.com, Jimmy Boyd, www.perfumesjimmyboyd.com and see Roulier White, Laboratorio Olfattivo, www.laboratorioolfattivo.com and see Roulier White, Les Senteurs, www.lesseurs.com, Ramón Monegal, www.ramonmonegal.com and see Harrods, Roulier White, www.roulierwhite.com, Senteifique, www.senteifique.com and see Roulier White.

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Swimming into bloom

Just launched is Lilliput & Felix, a swimwear brand from British designer Carrisa Ramsay. She hasn't gone in for anything too fancy, concentrating instead on the things that matter most – beautifully made timeless designs, flattering, feminine cuts and proper support. Half the collection comes in a fine moisture-wicking fabric, the other half in French jacquards and textured knits.

Inspired by English country gardens, this first collection includes lovely bikinis (€220) in vintage-esque pale-blue or coral florals with rather appealing bandeau tops that can be tied in multifarious ways. But I like the swimwear best, especially Lilium (€245) in garter (black), which has gold embellishments on the straps, a plunging V at the front and long neck ties that meet in a soft tie bow at the lower back and provide lots of support, even for somewhat larger busts. There's also the halterneck Anacardus in a pretty bluebell print (€245, pictured right) or plain coral, with flattering geometric panels across the midriff, and a small but charming collection of cover-ups. The Wisteria kimono (€250) and Linnamun kaftan (€225) have bellies and come in delicious patterns – the faded-effect Secret Garden (pictured left) and more vibrant Poppy in pinks and reds, www.lilliputandfelix.com and see www.avenue32.com and www.wellandbadger.com.

Loose change

The shop at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford is well worth exploring for presents and useful things for home and home. This reproduction of an 18th-century plate is made from tin, measures 25.5cm in diameter, and is a splendidly practical prop for summer picnics and garden parties. £5, www.ashmolean.org.

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