



AMBER WAVE

This fall, the hottest note in niche perfumery is pure fantasy, inspired by a substance that has no smell: amber.

By LAYLA ILCHI

● **IN SHORT**, there is no such thing as amber essential oil. The concept of “amber” — fossilized tree resin hardened into a golden stone — is a late 19th-century olfactory invention typically comprising vanilla, benzoin and labdanum. Combined, these rich ingredients impart a soft warmth and a subtle sweetness.

The earliest amber perfumes are true legends: Jicky—introduced in 1889 by Guerlain, and Ambre Antique—created by François Coty circa 1905.

“Amber notes are becoming more popular as retro-inspired fragrances continue to trend,” said Sherri Sebastian, a Los Angeles-based perfumer who is launching her own niche brand—Provision—this fall. She is spotlighting a trademarked ingredient called Amber Xtreme in Resonance, a star eau de parfum in the collection.

“Amber notes vary in intensity and effect,” she explained, “making them the perfect complement to a variety of fragrance profiles—from green citrus to heavier, smoky, woody scents.”

Case in point: A slew of niche perfumes making their debut this season feature amber, blended with notes ranging from Turkish Rose to green coffee.

1. **Olfactive Studio Close Up**, \$195
2. **Vilhelm Purple Fig** \$000
3. **Ex Nihilo Amber Sky**, \$370
4. **Nishane Ambra Calabria**, \$175
5. **Mad et Len Terre Noire**, \$155
6. **Malbrum Wildfire**, \$100
7. **Phuong Dang Raw Secret**, \$300
8. **Inspiritu Temperantia**, \$210
9. **Provision Resonance**, \$125

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