



on the pulse

The new fragrances starring this season have some great scent stories to tell. Here's what you need to know about the hottest new perfumes.





Dior Miss Dior Chérie

Smells like... A French patisserie.

Ingredients include: Calabrian bergamot, wild strawberries, caramelised popcorn, Egyptian jasmine, Indian tuberose.

What's new: The eau de toilette version has just been released. It's a lighter take on the gourmand-inspired EDP (which was released in 2005 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Christian Dior's birth), featuring a pared-back mix of bergamot, freesia, popcorn and patchouli.

About Christian Dior: Christian Dior is synonymous with French couture. He famously launched the 'New Look' in 1947; with its hourglass figure, it gave back to post-war, fashion-deprived women a look of unabashed femininity and luxury. The talented John Galiano recently celebrated his 10-year anniversary as resident designer at Dior.

FYI: Dior fashion devotees have included Marlene Dietrich, Sophia Loren and Grace Kelly. More recently: Sharon Stone and Charlize Theron (who are now Dior spokespeople). Some of the new-gen fans: Drew Barrymore, Mischa Barton and Emmy Rossum.

The range: The eau de parfum is priced from \$95, 50ml; while the new eau de toilette is from \$78.



Yves Saint Laurent Young Sexy Lovely

Smells like... A garden in springtime bursting with fruit and flowers.

Ingredients include: Nashi pear, Italian mandarin, blackcurrant, cherry blossom, peach, Chinese magnolia.

About Yves Saint Laurent: Saint Laurent was named successor to the late Christian Dior at the boy-genius age of 21. In 1962 he went solo and soon after hit stratospheric heights of success. Just a few of the fashion trends he ignited were sexy safari-style dresses, sleek trouser suits and tuxes ('le smoking') for women, and rich jewel shades. Stefano Pilati is now head designer, following Saint Laurent's recent retirement.

FYI: The bottle is in the shape of a heart - a reference to the jewel that Saint Laurent's favourite model used to wear in every couture collection. It's said to symbolise the designer's love of women.

The range: The eau de toilette starts at \$88, 50ml.



Donna Karan Gold

Smells like... A room full of lilies and luxuriously scented candles.

Ingredients include: Casablanca lily, amber, acacia, white clove, jasmine temple, golden balsam, East Indian patchouli.

About Donna Karan: Since her first show in 1985, and the follow-up acclaim for her bodysuits and mix-and-match basics, Karan has become one of America's most influential designers. Her look is one of glamorous ease - for instance, jersey dresses that are sumptuous in feel and exquisite in cut. She works hard but remains family-focused and she's committed to healthy living, being a devotee of yoga and the raw food diet.

FYI: The bottle was designed by sculptor and jeweller Robert Lee Morris, who regularly collaborates with Karan on accessories for her catwalk collections.

The range: The eau de parfum range starts at \$125, 50ml. On a budget? Check out the cute handbag-friendly roller ball for \$80.

Chanel Allure Sensuelle

Smells like... Sweet and sexy at once.

Ingredients include: Bourbon vanilla, amber patchouli, musk, Turkish and Bulgarian rose, Egyptian and Indian jasmine, frankincense.

What's new: A shower lotion, a body cream and a 35ml-size of the eau de parfum spray.

About Coco Chanel: The icon of all fashion icons, Coco Chanel, who died in 1971, left many a style legacy, from the little black dress and the bouclé suit to the two-toned ballet pump. Karl Lagerfeld has been head designer at Chanel for more than 20 years.

FYI: When formulating the fragrance, Chanel's master perfumer, Jacques Polge, took inspiration from Chanel muse Anna Mouglalis' deep sensual voice - a voice that's said to strike everyone who meets the actress. One journalist for the *English Mail on Sunday* described it as being "deep and husky, like syrup poured over gravel".

The range: The eau de parfum starts at \$110, 35ml. The Creamy Shower Gel is \$78, 200ml, the Body Cream, \$117, 200ml.



Danielle by Danielle Steel

Smells like... Not at all what you might expect - which would be a bodice-ripping sex-in-a-bottle kind of scent. It's actually a very intriguing mix of ingredients.

Ingredients include: Green top notes, butterfly jasmine, sunset orchid, hydroponic rose, blue vetiver, cashmere musk.

About Danielle Steel: The glamorous author has sold 600 million books in 48 countries in a total of 27 languages. Since writing her first book in 1973 (on a 1946 typewriter, which she still uses) Steel has averaged three books a year. And if that is not enough to make you feel tired, how's this: Steel has nine children. Phew.

FYI: Steel is one of the world's leading haute couture customers. At least two of her daughters - Victoria and Vanessa Traina - are high-society butterflies in training. Another fashion link is Steel's friendship with Anna Wintour, editrix of *US Vogue*. It was Wintour who originally suggested Steel do her own perfume.

The range: The eau de parfum sprays start at \$90, 50ml, but the divine dab-on parfum bottle is worth the splurge at \$195. The glasswear is inspired by Steel's love of crystal, the black-lace-on-pink packaging by her couture gowns.



Ralph Lauren Ralph Rocks

Smells like... Lying by the beach at a tropical resort – complete with a creamy cocktail.

Ingredients include: Passionfruit, kiwifruit,

freesia, orange blossom, hyacinth, palm leaves, sun-bleached woods, coconut milk, sandalwood, amber.

FYI: It's classed as a Citrus Floral Cream, thanks to the 'whipped milk accord' in the middle notes, which is what makes it smell so coconut-creamy. Perfumer Annie Buzantian also created the successful Ralph Lauren Pure Turquoise.

About Ralph Lauren: He's the ultimate American rags-to-riches success story. And one of the most successful designers to become a lifestyle brand (you can even buy Ralph Lauren paint). Lauren's most-visited fashion themes include preppy-chic and Outback Americana.

The range: There are three sizes of eau de toilette, starting at \$59, 30ml. Available from May 20.

“PULSE POINTS (like the wrist, temples and inner elbows) are perfect for perfume, as their circulation-stimulated warmth helps diffuse and amplify scent. Body heat also causes aroma to rise, so an extra spritz behind the knees will allow you to get the most out of your fragrance.”

Mary-Kate and Ashley L.A Style and N.Y Chic

Smell like... L.A Style: Reminds us of a sparkling fruity mocktail. N.Y Chic: A sweet, rich dessert.

Ingredients include: In L.A Style, there's clementine, berries, mango, peony, freesia and vanilla; in N.Y Chic, expect pink pepper, wild rose, lotus, sandalwood and amber.

About Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen: They were acting before they were walking, so it's not surprising that the almost 21-year-old twins (their birthday is June 13, so they're Geminis, which may explain their envy-inducing shoe collection) have already notched up many other achievements on their Balenciaga belts.

FYI: While the twins are unabashed label lovers – and recently even appeared in the ads for one favourite, Badgley Mischka – they're now focusing on their own high-fashion knitwear-based line. It's called The Row and is already stocked at the influential Barneys New York.

The range: Both eau de toilette are \$29.95, 50ml; there's also a body spray for \$14.95.



CK IN2U Her

Smells like... A medley of sorbet and ice-cream.

Ingredients include: Pink grapefruit, bergamot, red currant leaves, sugar orchid, white cactus, vanilla soufflé.

About Calvin Klein: With as much savvy business sense as fashion know-how, Klein quickly established himself as a style mega-brand. If you couldn't afford his chic catwalk creations, there was always a pair of jeans or CK-embazoned knickers in easy reach. Or perfume: There was Calvin Klein Eternity, which soon became an '80s classic, Calvin Klein Escape, one of the pivotal water scents of the 1990s, and CK One, one of the most successful unisex fragrances ever.

FYI: The name is inspired by text-speak and the company sees this scent as one for what it describes as the 'technosexual' generation – a term it has trademarked.

The range: Eau de toilettes begin at \$50, 50ml, body products priced from \$30, 200ml



Giorgio Armani Armani Code

Smells like... think of how you want to smell on a first date – well, this is it bottled.

Ingredients include: Orange blossom, ginger, pear sorbet, jasmine, vanilla, woods, lavender, honey.

What's new: In early May, an eau de toilette joins the line-up – it's a more crystalline version of the original 'floriental' eau de parfum; there's a lighter

spin of orange blossom, lily of the valley has been added for extra flower power, and musk replaces the woody notes to make for a more delicate dry-down.

About Giorgio Armani: The Italian designer has had women around the world swooning for his glamorous gowns and perfectly cut suits for years now. Armani has been designing under his own name for more than 30 years and, soon to be 73, says he has no plans to retire any time soon.

FYI: Giorgio Armani is enjoying renewed acclaim and increasing popularity among the stylish star-set. He has cleverly showed his couture 'Privé' line in Los Angeles, attracting the likes of Katie Holmes and Penelope Cruz to his front row. The buzz paid off, with Beyoncé and Cate Blanchett being two of the big names to wear Armani to the Oscars this year.

The range: The eau de parfum (shown) starts at \$84, 30ml, the new eau de toilette at \$95, 50ml. Plus, there's a 200ml body lotion for \$80.



TIP Store your perfumes in a cool, dark place to keep them fresh for as long as possible. Fragrance can break down in heat and light.