

MAY 2024

ARABIA

*Spring's
best trends*

THIS SEASON'S
FASHION & BEAUTY
ESSENTIALS, PLUS
THE ULTIMATE
DESTINATIONS



LOVE & LUXURY

CARMEN BSAIBES & BASSEL KHAIAI
BEHIND THE SCENES
OF THEIR LATEST PROJECT

UAE DHS15





MERCEDES GLEITZE



LARA GUT-BEHRAMI



IGA ŚWIĄTEK



SONYA YONCHEVA



GRACE KELLY



SYLVIA EARLE



LEXI THOMPSON



KHOUDIA TOURÉ



YUJA WANG

“CLASSIC”?

“A classic timepiece, designed for a lady.” This is how some may describe our Oyster Perpetual Lady-Datejust. Maybe they’re right. Since the early 20th Century, Rolex has designed and crafted watches suited for all women’s wrists, with the same standard of excellence as for all the models that have built its legend. Always pursuing a higher standard. So, if “classic” means perpetuating tradition while combining elegance and precision, grace and resistance, beauty and performance, it is indeed a classic timepiece, designed for a lady. **The Lady-Datejust.**

#Perpetual



OYSTER PERPETUAL
LADY-DATEJUST

OFFICIAL ROLEX RETAILER

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AHMED SEDDIQI & SONS

Dubai Mall • Mall of the Emirates • Wafi

seddiqi.com



CHANEL

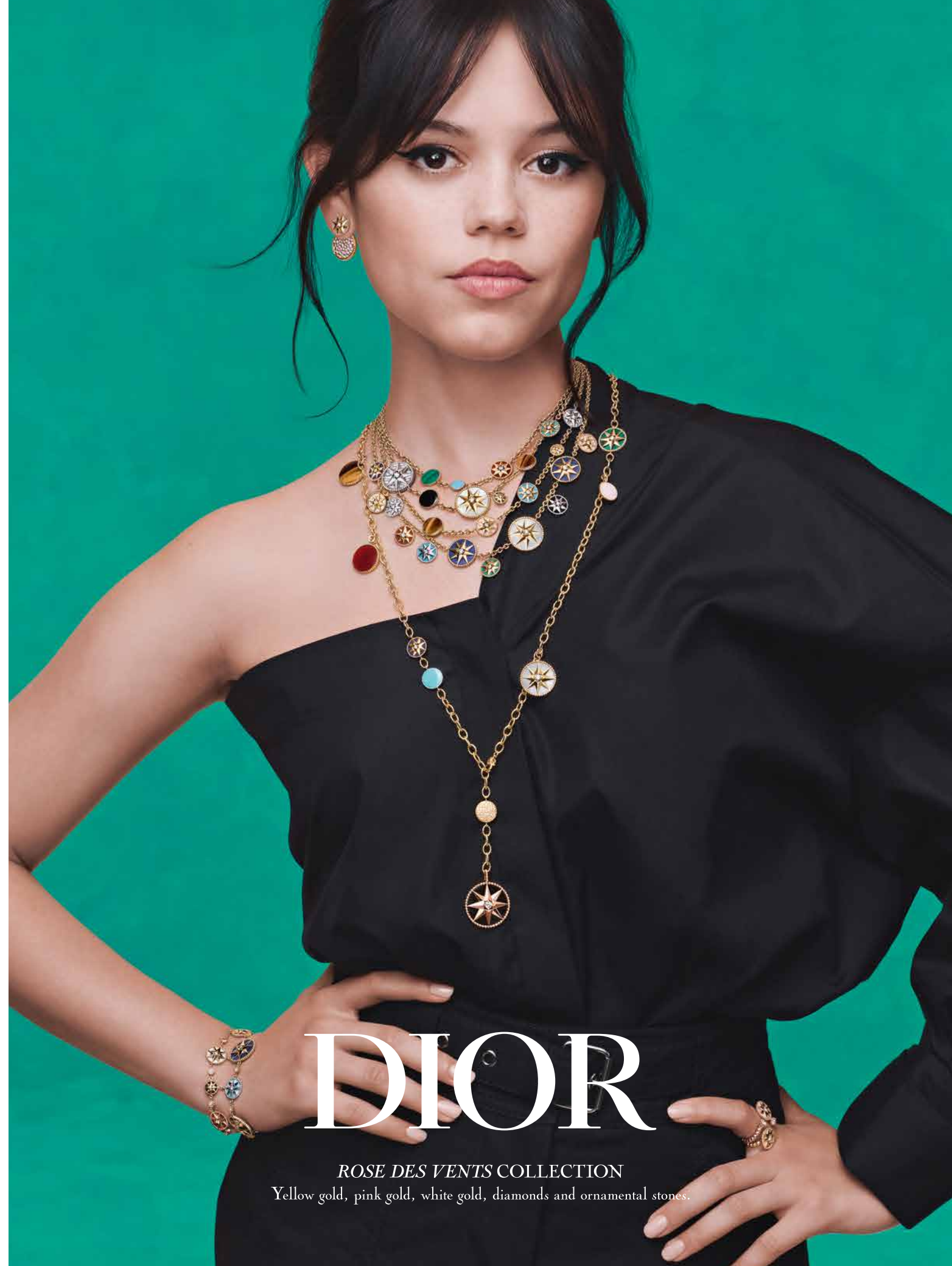
HIGH JEWELLERY

N°5 NECKLACE IN WHITE GOLD AND DIAMONDS,
FEATURING A 55.55-CARAT EMERALD-CUT DFL TYPE IIA DIAMOND.





dior.com



DIOR

ROSE DES VENTS COLLECTION
Yellow gold, pink gold, white gold, diamonds and ornamental stones.



ELLE

March 2024
Issue 154

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On the COVER

CARMEN BSAIBES in BULGARI High Jewelry Serpenti Bracelet in Rose and White Gold with Emerald Eyes, Tourmalines and Diamonds; BULGARI High Jewelry Necklace in Rose Gold with Tourmalines, Spinel, Tanzanites and Diamonds; Dress, Sara Mrad BASSEL KHAÏAT in BULGARI OCTO ROMA Octagonal Tourbillon Watch (41 mm) in Rose Gold Case, Black Dial Mechanical Movement, Waterproof 50m; Suit & T-shirt, D&G
 Photographer Amer Mohamad; Creative Direction Ahmed Rashwan @1602studio; Makeup Michel Kiwarkis; Hair Deena Alawaid; Groomer Sebastian Iskander; Set Design Yehia Bedier; Fashion Assistants Rozeta Zatikyan & Anna Galsteva; Location Bicki Boss

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ELLE

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PHOTOGRAPHER LOUISE MEYER, STYLIST LUIRA SEGANTIL, FASHION EDITOR ANNIESOPHIE THOMAS

Let the Music Play... MOHAIR SWEATER, DENIM SHIRT AND TROUSERS, LEATHER LOAFERS, CELINE BY HEDI SLIMANE. BANDANA, VINTAGE Below: Keep Calm and Carry On... TODAY'S RAFFIA BAGS ARE A TOTAL VIBE ON THEIR OWN



SPRING CELEBRATION

Dear Readers,
Spring is a season of renewal and inspiration, and our May issue is brimming with stories that reflect just that spirit! We start with our cover story, 'Behind the Scenes with Carmen & Bassel,' where ELLE Arabia dives into the dramatic world of "Nazrit Hobb." Discover how Carmen Bsaibes and Bassel Khaiat bring their characters to life, adorned in stunning Bulgari jewels, sharing personal connections and unforgettable moments from the set. We also meet Captain Sahar Rasti, the UAE's first female ship captain, who narrates her journey of breaking barriers and empowering women in the maritime industry. Join us as we explore Rasha Gebran's stewardship of her family's legacy at A.D.D Consultant.

She merges timeless elegance with modern design, pushing the boundaries of creativity. Celebrating a milestone, we revisit Boucheron's Quatre collection on its 20th anniversary, a symbol of innovation in jewelry design. Don't miss these stories, plus our latest fashion shoots, beauty breakthroughs, travel destinations, and delicious Italian recipes.



Dina Spahi
dina.spahi@ellearabia.com



PRETTY IN PASTELS...

May calls for a soft and sweet palette, perfect for leisurely afternoons and chic gatherings alike



1. JACQUEMUS 2. ALEXANDER MCQUEEN 3. TIFFANY & CO. 4. SIMONE ROCHA 5. BOTTEGA VENETA 6. DOLCE & GABBANA 7. MISSONI 8. LORO PIANA 9. GUCCI



The BANGLE

This stunning Spring Riverside Bangle, a part of Cindy Chao The Art Jewel's latest Black Label Masterpieces, manifests her blend of Eastern and Western artistry. This museum-caliber jewel intertwines "root and vein" themes with unmatched craftsmanship



The TIMEPIECE

Vacheron Constantin's Égérie moon phase watch, developed with Yiqing Yin, marries Haute Couture with horological artistry in a limited edition of 100 pieces. The 37 mm pink gold case, gemset bezel, and interchangeable straps highlight the lilac hues, featuring a mother-of-pearl dial adorned with a pleated motif



The BAG

Dolce & Gabbana's Marlene shoulder bag redefines elegance with its medium-sized, gold foiled python skin and chic chain strap. Crafted in Italy, it features a turn-lock closure, nappa leather lining, and a practical flat pocket

ELLE

radar

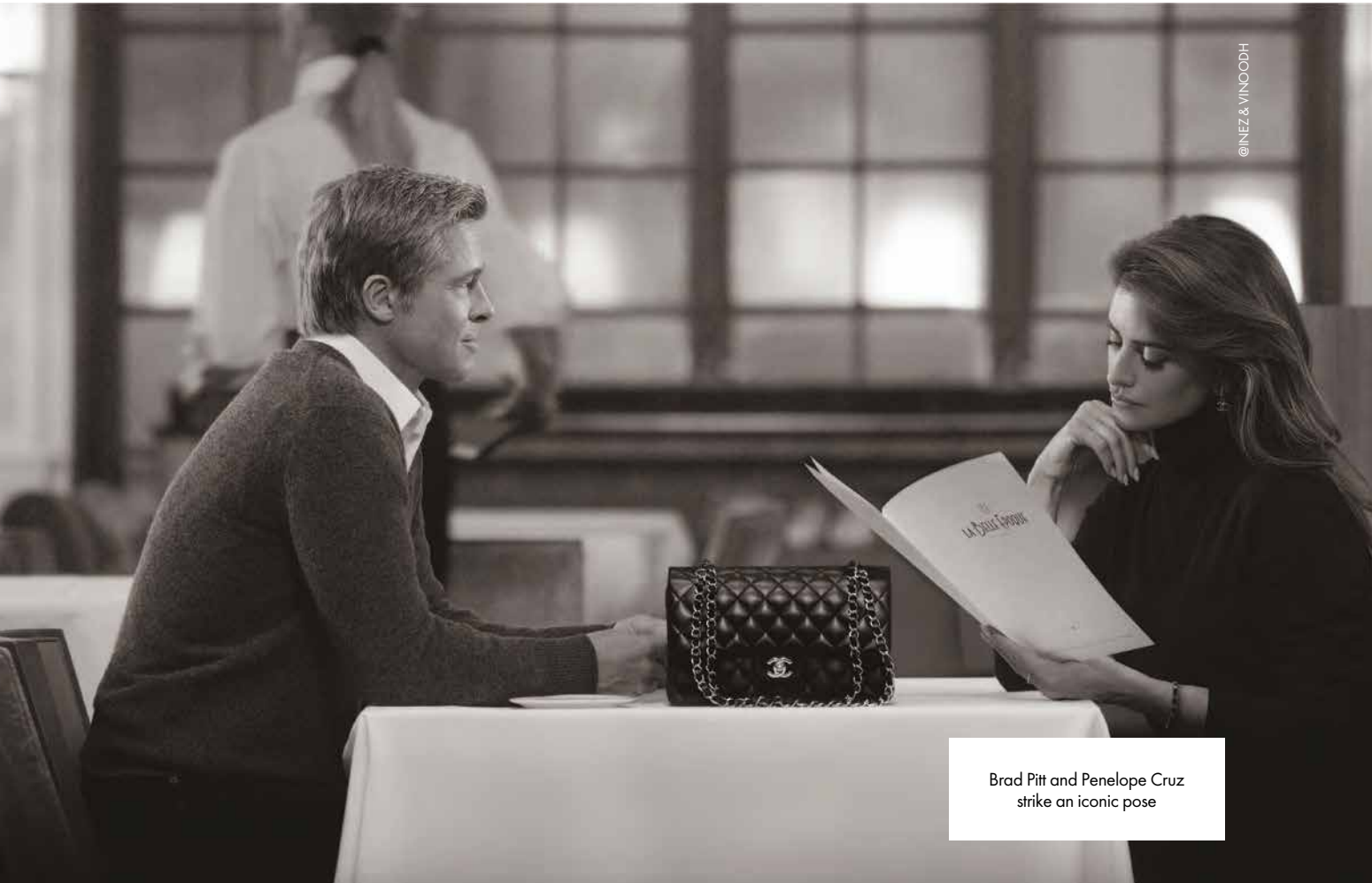


FOREVER & ALWAYS:
AN ICON
The Timeless
Journey of the
CHANEL Bag

Scene stealers...

A SPOTLIGHT ON THIS MONTH'S HOTTEST TRENDS WITH OUR CURATED SELECTION OF MUST-SEE LOOKS, FASHION AND STYLE NEWS, AND CAN'T-MISS EVENTS.

FW 2024-25 RTW CHANEL SHOW BACKSTAGE



@INEZ & VINOODH

Brad Pitt and Penelope Cruz strike an iconic pose



A still from Claude Lelouch's *A Man and A Woman*: Winner of the Palme d'Or at the 1966 Cannes Film Festival, the Oscar for Best Foreign Film in 1967 and the Oscar for Best Original Screenplay

A NOD TO THE CLASSICS

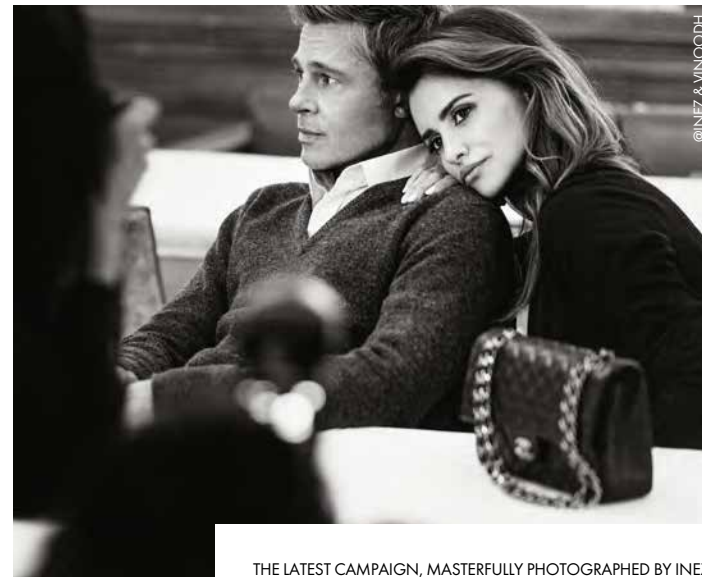
The Cinematic Journey of the Iconic Chanel Bag

From its film debut back in '66 to today's high fashion runways, the iconic handbag has journeyed through decades, shaping up as more than just a carryall. Inspired by the charm and drama of New Wave cinema, Virginie Viard brought the nostalgia and sensuality of Claude Lelouch's "A Man and A Woman" into Chanel's latest handbag campaign. Think legendary scenes, think timeless elegance – this bag has got it all and then some.

This isn't just any handbag. It's got history, having made its mark in Lelouch's film with Anouk Aimée, where it added depth to her character's emotional journey. Today, it's back in the spotlight in

Chanel's new campaign, featuring Penelope Cruz and Brad Pitt. They bring the handbag into intimate moments, subtly highlighting its role in the narrative without overshadowing their performances.

Gabrielle Chanel was notorious for shaking things up with functionality meshed with luxury. This bag was her rebellion – practical yet ridiculously chic. Today, Virginie Viard has taken the wheel, steering this classic into the 21st century without losing an ounce of its original charm. With each collection, the bag retains its hallmark features – think quilted leather and those luxe chain straps – all while keeping things fresh and fab for today's Chanel devotees.



@INEZ & VINOODH

Behind the scenes of The Chanel iconic handbag campaign

THE LATEST CAMPAIGN, MASTERFULLY PHOTOGRAPHED BY INEZ & VINOODH, REVISITS THE FILM'S MOST POIGNANT MOMENTS, AND REPEATS ALMOST WORD FOR WORD, SHOT BY SHOT, SOME OF THE FILM'S ORIGINAL SEQUENCES. WITH PENELOPE CRUZ AND BRAD PITT IN ROLES THAT ARE BOTH TENDER AND EVOCATIVE, IT'S A BEAUTIFULLY ORCHESTRATED HOMAGE WHERE EACH SHOT CELEBRATES THE TIMELESS BOND BETWEEN CINEMA AND FASHION.

"Un homme et une femme" was a very low-budget film. We shot on location in natural settings. The actors were filmed in their own clothes... And it was Anouk Aimée's actual handbag. She took it everywhere. It went very well with her personality, and we ended up keeping it for the film, Claude Lelouch on how Anouk Aimée's Chanel bag ended up in the middle of the table in the dinner scene at Le Normandy in Deauville

"A Man and a Woman is really one of my favorite films of all time. It's an incredible film. Anouk (Aimée) has always been like a dream for me in so many roles throughout her career, but especially in that one. I've always thought I would love to do a character like that one day and also make a reference in terms of her look in that film" - Actress and Chanel ambassador Penelope Cruz

"It's like a magic trick, even if you're just wearing jeans, sneakers and a t-shirt, you add a Chanel bag, and it gives you that feeling. I was telling Virginie (Viard, Artistic Director of the Fashion collections) that wearing the clothes she creates gives me a real dopamine-high reaction" - Actress Penelope Cruz



3D LIVING

If you didn't pay attention back in geometry class, don't worry – designers are giving us all a quick 101 update with bold abstract shapes of all style equations.

1. FENDI 2. CELINE 3. KEANE 4. ROSIE ASSOULIN 5. MARNI
6. LOUIS VUITTON 7. ALAÏA 8. FOLLOW SUIT 9. POSSE

LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT

1. HERMÈS 2. DEZSO 3. MAYGEL CORONEL 4. CHRISTOPHER ESBER 5. LESLIE AMON
6. AQUAZZURA 7. RABANNE 8. SIMKHAI 9. GIULIVA HERITAGE



SELLING SUNSET

Add a bit of zest to your life in tangy orange and a myriad of its other spicy shades – the Aperol Spritz hues work perfectly at sunsets, or sunrise!

LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT

Trending... Tenniscore

It's game, set, match as fashion continues to serve tennis skirts and polo shirts that look as good on the court as off of it.



AUTRY

CASABLANCA

LACOSTE

CASABLANCA

MIU MIU

LACOSTE

BRUNELLO CUCINELLI

FASHION MEMO

A Curated Roundup Of The Best New Fashion Trends And Noteworthy Pieces To Pay Attention To Now!

JACQUEMUS

©BENOIT FLORENÇON



JACQUEMUS / LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT

New in town

First stop on your new season shopping route should be Dubai Mall's Fashion Avenue where Parisian favorite Jacquemus has opened its brand new flagship. Coated in clean all-muted interiors, the store serves as an extension of the brand with its minimalistic and sophisticated aura, the perfect backdrop for the expansive discovery of women's ready-to-wear and accessories on display.

LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT



© 2024 EDWARD BERTHELOT

Everybody's wearing... A summer hat

With brighter days ahead, there's no better time to embrace a chapeau when heading out the door... just grab and go!



CECILIE

Just for you

Fans of Copenhagen-based fashion brand Cecilie Bahnsen are in for a stellar treat with the launch of their new online made-to-order service. Available on their website, customers can directly buy straight off the runway, pull from the brand's archives, or pick from a curated edit of bridal styles.

Springing Into Summer

Sporty & Rich is back with another three-stripe drop and this time, drenched in a bright blue and yellow colorway, the adidas collab centers around the archival SL72 sneaker. Summer city excursions, we're coming for you!



Coveted Collab

WHO: VICTORIA BECKHAM X MANGO

WHAT: After her stunning sheer birthday dress to ring in 50-years, we're all racing to look like our favorite Spice Girl and this collab is making it possible. The 46-piece collection features highly-wearable staples taking its cues from 70s style that will happily slip into just about any wardrobe.

Psst... Investment Piece

Over 20 years since its initial debut, Le City bag makes a striking comeback as a reconstituted icon. Enigmatically maximalist yet modernly practical, it's hard not to want in every color – especially in mint green!



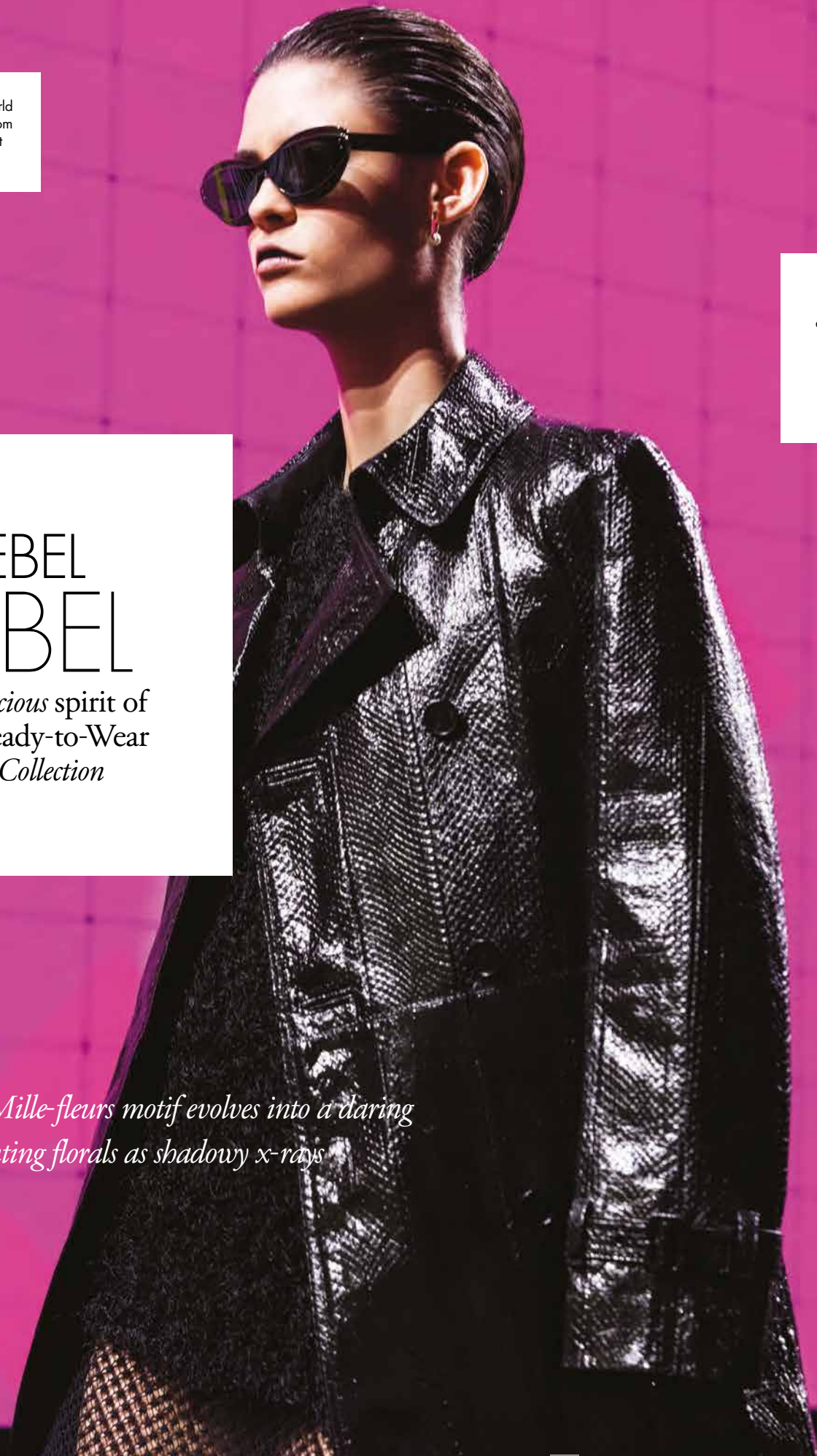
BALENCIAGA



We salute the darkly romantic world of Dior with jackets that borrow from masculine forms, and fabrics that echo the tales of time

REBEL REBEL

The audacious spirit of Dior's Ready-to-Wear SS24 Collection



Masterminded by Maria Grazia Chiuri, this series is a bold exploration of femininity and feminism, mixing medieval mystique with modern defiance. Crafted for the rebel at heart, it's where past and future seamlessly collide, proving that fashion isn't just about style – it's about making a statement.

The collection's palette weaves ash, chamomile, and potion-like colors into a tapestry of rebellious sophistication



Each piece celebrates the artisanal with materials that recall the rugged textures of Italian artist Alberto Burri's art, making every tear and burn a testament to defiant beauty



Knitwear contours to the body, striking a balance between sensuous comfort and the edgy allure of metallic hues reminiscent of chainmail



The Mille-fleurs motif evolves into a daring contrast, presenting florals as shadowy x-rays



LUXURY UNVEILED

Exploring the Future of Beauty with Shiseido



ELLE Arabia and Shiseido hosted an exclusive event at Cle d'Or, located in the Mall of the Emirates, where guests were introduced to Shiseido's best-selling anti-aging skincare collection, Future Solution LX. This premium line is now enhanced with the revolutionary SkingenecellEnmei Complex, a proprietary anti-aging ingredient designed to slow down the appearance of aging signs and restore a youthful look. The Shiseido Future Solution LX range aims to activate skin cells, increasing their regenerative powers. This helps in repairing damaged skin and boosting protection, resulting in reduced fine lines and a more healthy, radiant complexion.

The evening was not only about luxury skincare but also celebrated cultural traditions. A henna artist was on hand creating beautiful, intricate designs for guests while colorful cocktails and refreshing green tea provided a delightful sensory experience. The event also featured exquisite table decorations by Mushy Things, creating an atmosphere of sophisticated beauty and promising advancements in skincare technology.



ELLE

accessories

A HOUSE ICON...
When past and present come together - The Gucci Jackie with a hook closure

All in the Details...

THE GLASSES, BAGS, BAUBLES AND SHOES THAT MAKE THE LOOK

PHOTOGRAPHER/CREATIVE DIRECTION: DIANA BASSATNE
LOCATION: URBAN NEST, DUBAI



Street style

LIFE IN COLOR

Spring has sprung, summer is knocking on the door and fashion's color palette is shifting to sunny bright hues to match the weather. How to inject this happy dose of pigment into your wardrobe? A bright tote or carryall is an easy way to add some sunshine into your everyday uniform.



LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT

@BLANCA MIRO



GONE FISHING

Meet the ugly shoe of the season – the fisherman, a sandal that offers a little bit more coverage than your average flip flop and a whole lot of comfort like your favorite loafers.



From left: VINNY'S, GABRIELA HEARST, THE ROW, MARNI



From left: CHURCH'S, MASSIMO DUTTI, JW ANDERSON, LOEWE



*Kariolna Kurkova,
Brunello Cucinelli, Federico
Milleri, Mark Vanderloo*

*SUNNY
DAYS AHEAD*

*Brunello Cucinelli &
EssilorLuxottica unveil
a sparkling new eyewear
collection*



The Solomeo-based fashion house Brunello Cucinelli teams up once again with eyewear giant EssilorLuxottica to dazzle us with their latest creations.



Under beautiful blue skies in Rome, it was all smiles and style at the star-studded presentation of the chic, handcrafted pieces that blend Italian craftsmanship with a splash of summer fun!

"THE PHENOMENAL PRODUCT RESULTING FROM THIS HEARTFELT COLLABORATION REPRESENTS AN OUTSTANDING PIECE OF LUXURY CRAFTSMANSHIP. I WHOLEHEARTEDLY HOPE THAT OUR GLASSES, WHICH ARE SO TRUE AND BEAUTIFUL, WILL PLEASE CUSTOMERS AND ACHIEVE ALL THE SUCCESS THEY DESERVE." –

BRUNELLO CUCINELLI,
*Executive Chairman and Creative
Director of the fashion house*



Inspired by friendship and a shared passion for beauty, these designs are more than just eyewear - they're a celebration of artful living and sunny dispositions.





A NEW ERA OF SHOPPING

With its bespoke services, *Mall of Emirates* is changing the luxury shopping experience *as we know it*

GONE ARE THE DAYS WHEN A TRIP TO THE MALL WAS MERELY A HURRIED EVENT FOCUSED SOLELY ON THE MISSION AT HAND: GRABBING WHAT YOU NEED AND DASHING OUT AS SWIFTLY AS POSSIBLE. NO, TODAY'S SHOPPING TRIPS HAVE BEEN ELEVATED TO EXPERIENCES, AND AT MALL OF THE EMIRATES, IT'S A JOURNEY WHERE YOUR COMFORT AND DESIRES LEAD THE WAY.



CLÉ D'OR: A HAVEN FOR VIP SHOPPERS

Nestled amidst renowned designer boutiques in the prestigious Fashion Dome, this members-only luxury lifestyle lounge offers discerning shoppers a sanctuary of refinement and indulgence where they can kick back and relax as a team of expert personal shoppers meticulously curate an immersive shopping experience for them. From exclusive previews and private fitting rooms to bespoke brand events, the lounge offers an elegant shopping sanctuary like no other.



DIGITAL CONCIERGE: LUXURY SHOPPING AT THE TAP OF A BUTTON

What if you could find exactly what you are looking for without having to hit every store in the mall? Well, now you can and it's all thanks to the Digital Concierge service at Mall of the Emirates where your retail experience starts and ends with a tap of a button. With just a quick message on WhatsApp, you can delve into a diverse catalog featuring over 350 brands. Whether it's a sought-after luxury brand or a specific item you've spotted online, the Digital Concierge acts as your personal shopper, available to advise, collect, and even deliver your chosen items within a mere four hours of purchase.

Call +971 800 6636255 to use now!

HANDS-FREE SHOPPING: NOT A BAG IN SIGHT

With the innovative Hands-Free Shopping service, say goodbye to the hassle of carrying heavy bags while you shop. Simply have your purchases dropped off at designated locations and enjoy the freedom to continue exploring the mall unencumbered and when you're done, your once burdensome bags are just a message away from being whisked to your desired location within the mall. Add to that reserved parking spots and the convenience of Smart Parking, and every excursion to the mall becomes an effortlessly smooth journey from start to finish.



ELLE

jewelry

MAKING OF...
Butterfly earrings in Fairmined-certified ethical 18-carat white gold, set with two pear-shaped aquamarines (27.57 carats) and a gradient of blue, pastel and pink sapphires; topazes; aquamarines; emeralds and brilliant-cut diamonds – Chopard's Red Carpet Collection 2024 'Contes de Fées'



Shine Bright...

RIVAL THE SUN THIS SPRING WITH THE BOLDEST AND BRIGHTEST PIECES

TWO DECADES OF QUATRE

Celebrating 20 Years of Boucheron's Game-Changer



Back in 2004, Boucheron decided to shake things up with a new ring called Quatre. Little did anyone guess it would turn into the icon that it is now. Fast forward 20 years, and here we are, celebrating Quatre's big 2-0. Quatre kicked off as a bold statement – a single ring that merged four totally different styles from Boucheron's back catalog. This wasn't just any ring; it was a blend of the old-school luxe of Double Godron and Clou de Paris with the eternal sparkle of diamonds and the chic touch of Grosgrain. As Quatre grew up, it kept up with the times and now includes bracelets, earrings and necklaces, all while sticking to its roots but never afraid to experiment with materials like denim and high-tech ceramics.

This year, Quatre innovates with 7 new anniversary pieces that explore various configurations including two necklaces, a belt, three bracelets, and a hair jewel, all featuring the Quatre ribbon design. Furthermore, the collection includes a special necklace made from 50 Quatre rings and a versatile bracelet in the form of a spool, as well as two cuff bangles and 10 bracelets. The anniversary also sees the introduction of an ultra-precious edition of Quatre Classique, enhanced with spessartite garnets and yellow sapphires. ELLE Arabia caught up with Hélène Poulit-Duquesne, the CEO of Boucheron, to chat about the journey of Quatre over the past two decades and what lies ahead...

The Quatre collection has been emblematic of blending tradition with innovation. What has been the most challenging aspect of maintaining this balance over the past 20 years? There is no challenge at all to keep a balance between tradition and innovation when dealing with our icon: Quatre quickly became an icon, appreciated from the very beginning for its traditional aspect – the four codes from Boucheron's archives – as well as its innovative aspect – its bold design and weight. Quatre weighs no less than 13.88 grams of gold, being the heaviest icon of Place Vendôme. Since 2004, Boucheron has continuously renewed the aesthetic of Quatre, which has successfully moved with the times. Quatre also features a variety of colors, starting with 2011's White Edition, followed a year later by the Black Edition. Next came the monochrome versions of the Radiant Edition and the vibrant colored Red and Blue Editions. The most recent version marries monochrome white gold with white Hyceram®, living up to its name Double White Edition.

Can you share the creative process behind introducing new designs while ensuring they remain true to the original Quatre aesthetic? While maintaining its iconic status, we worked on different axes to reinvent Quatre. The first axis consisted in introducing colors into the design of our icon. The second axis focused on developing new ergonomics. Since Quatre was initially a ring, it was quite challenging to create bracelets, mini pendants, and more, while ensuring that the four codes were recognized at first sight. The danger would have been to denature the aesthetic of the collection and to create something with no link with the original design. There are currently 144 references in the collection, including our novelties for 2024, in both jewelry and fine jewelry. We succeeded in remaining faithful to Quatre's original identity. How do you envision its evolution in the next decade? We have developed numerous innovative reinterpretations of Quatre. In 2022, Claire Choisine, our Creative Director, introduced Cofalit® on the Quatre icon. She chose this material, made from recycled industrial by-products and considered a "final material", to question the notion of what's precious and to push the boundaries of jewelry. We are very interested in using Cofalit® because it is a new black and also a sustainable material. In the coming years, I want to propose more bracelets. We have succeeded in developing pendants, and I want to further expand our bracelets offerings, which are an underrepresented ergonomic in the Quatre collections.

Can you tell us more about the new creations for Quatre's 20th anniversary? The anniversary collection unveils very bold pieces, which are featured in our campaign. You can discover Anja Rubik wearing a special cape: a unique bespoke creation made of 315 Quatre



rings. We've also showcased Ludwig Wilsdorff and Anja Rubik, each of them wearing two Quatre cuff bracelets. The hero design of this anniversary year is a Quatre ribbon, deployed across 7 different pieces: two necklaces, a belt, three bracelets and a hair jewel. The dream concept was to unfurl the codes of Quatre – an inherently rigid collection – into a flowing ribbon. We also unveil a Quatre bracelet in the form of a spool that holds 12 pieces, two cuff bangles and 10 bracelets; along with many other surprises.

How do you see Quatre embodying the Maison's legacy while pushing the boundaries of high jewelry? For this special anniversary, we are proposing an ultra-precious edition of Quatre Classique: a High Jewelry collar necklace, made up of around 50 Quatre rings, each individually crafted and assembled with the savoir faire that is unique to this collection. Additionally, other High Jewelry pieces introduce high-precious stones in the iconic design of Quatre, while still respecting the four codes. On a ring, a bracelet and a choker, the Double Godron code is augmented with spessartite garnets, set off by yellow sapphires on the Grosgrain. These new stones intensify the sparkle of the row of diamonds

"YOU CAN'T CREATE AN ICON. ICONS ARE WROUGHT OVER TIME, AND THEY GAIN THAT STATUS BECAUSE THEY STRIKE A CHORD WITH PEOPLE"

HÉLÈNE POULIT-DUQUESNE, CEO of Boucheron.

and contrast with the matte effect of the brown PVD on the Clou de Paris. Assembling these groups of garnets and yellow sapphires was a significant challenge to the Maison's Gemstones department, which spent several years sourcing stones of absolutely identical colors.

What role does sustainability play in Boucheron's approach to innovation? Sustainability is at the heart of jewelry and High Jewelry. Indeed, no one throws a diamond away: our jewelry creations are crafted for eternity and pass down through generations. This is why we consider we have a duty toward future generations. Our sustainability framework "Precious for the Future" challenges



us to operate in harmony with the ecosystem that surrounds us. Our main focus is on raw material: we use 100% responsible gold since 2020 (following the Kering Gold Framework), including 95% of recycled gold. We work on improving traceability on colored gemstones. Dealing with diamonds, various traceability pilot schemes and projects since 2019 lead to Sarine's solution, enabling to gain verifiable data from every step of the diamond supply chain, from the mine to the jewel, and a fully digitalized custom Boucheron Diamond Certificate. We also reduced the footprint of our packaging in June 2023, following my brief which was 'No pack is the new pack'. Our new pioneering jewelry box is made of just 2 materials (vs. 11 before), both natural and recyclable, and every step of its life cycle has been optimized.

How important is the global market for Boucheron, and how do you adapt your strategies for the Middle East? We develop one single offer globally, we don't create pieces for a specific market. Nevertheless, we regularly check that the pieces we launch fit with the market. In the Middle East, our collection Serpent Bohème is appreciated by customers, especially the most precious pieces. The anniversary of Quatre will be the perfect opportunity to introduce our jewelry icon and to share its specific story, embodying the Maison's essence. We will showcase the high precious pieces of the anniversary collection. How do you see the concept of personal style and luxury evolving, and what role does Boucheron play in this evolution? Our Maison has always accompanied societal evolution and women's way of living. In 1879, Frédéric Boucheron, our founder, designed the

Question Mark necklace to allow women to put and take off their High Jewelry necklace themselves because it had no clasp. He contributed empowering women. We continue stay connected to our era as our Maison is very close to Couture. Indeed, Frédéric Boucheron was the son of a draper. He grew up in a setting made of precious materials, and he had a taste for rare textiles, as well as for the fashion of the times. This environment influenced his approach to High Jewelry: in the archives of the Maison, we have many creations taking inspiration from the world of couture.

Quatre is celebrated for its genderless and versatile design. How important is inclusivity to Boucheron's design philosophy? Boucheron was the first Maison to showcase High Jewelry on men. It is evident for us to unveil our collections worn by both men and women. Claire Choisine, our creative director, designs genderless collections as an aesthetic choice to her. We don't categorize as men or women, but as individuals. We help each individual feel unique and propose pieces that complement their style and express their uniqueness. In your view, what makes a piece of jewelry iconic, and how has Quatre achieved this status? You don't create an icon: it's the clients who decide. Which means customers appreciated the bold design of Quatre as a ring since the beginning, and they continue to appreciate this highly creative collection. I think there is no real recipe for creating an icon, and that's what I find fascinating. Icons are crucial from an image perspective because they truly embody the essence of a Maison. We're lucky to have Quatre in our portfolio. To maintain the desirability of our icon over the years, we continually revisit the collection with novelties. However, Quatre is above all a ring, and while we develop other ergonomics, the center of gravity will always remain the ring.

Earrings Drop of Pear Shape Diamonds, Wedding Ring
Diamonds Pear & Marquise Shape - George Hakim Jewelers
Dress, Krikor Jabotian



Fancy, Emerald, *Marquise*, *Baguette* or *Pear*, each diamond from
George Hakim Jewelers is curated to reflect your personal style

A CUT ABOVE

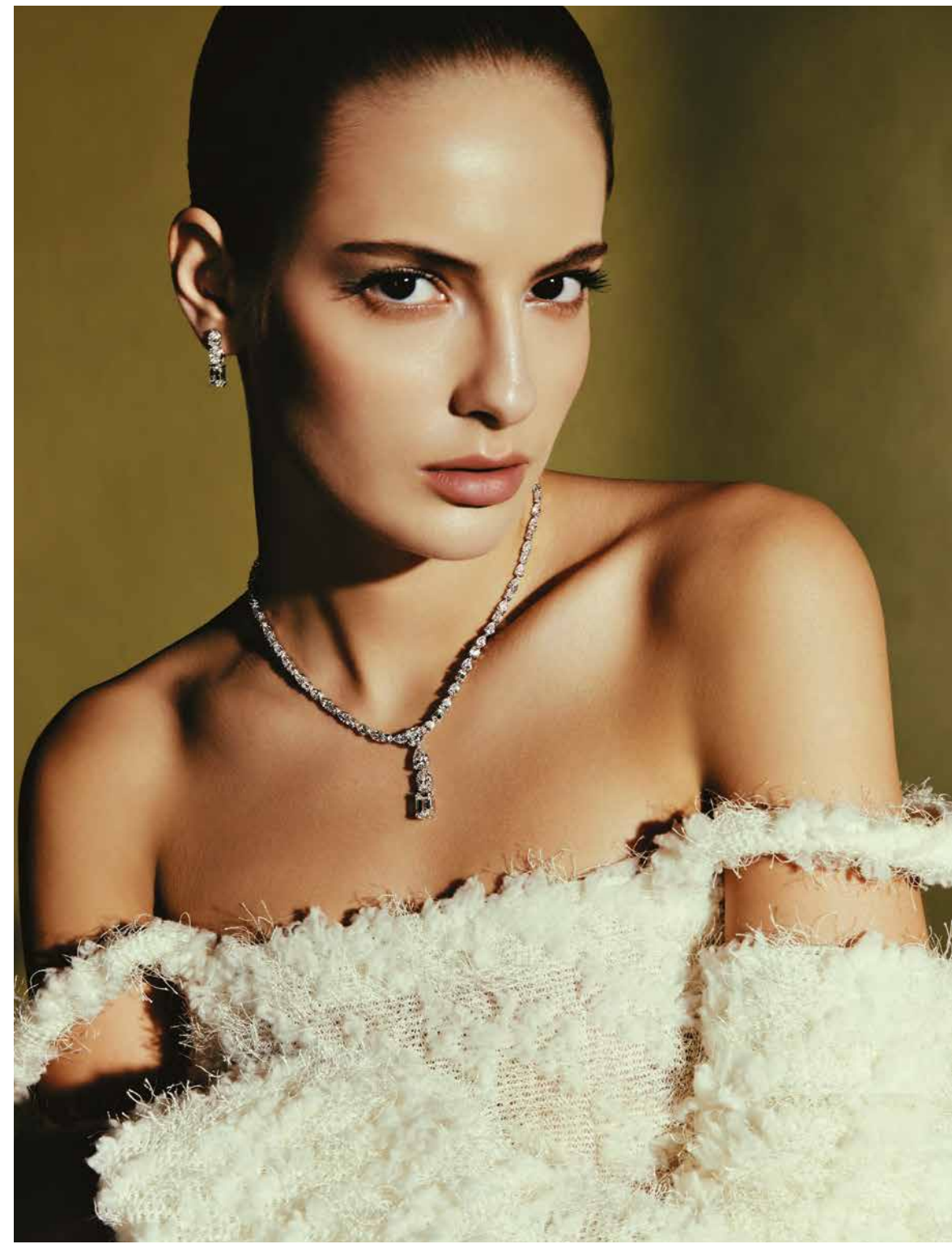
Photographer ELSN LAHOUD
Stylist YASMINA KARAM

Ring Radiant Cut Emerald 3.91ct
surrounded by Marquise & Oval Shape
Diamonds, Emeralds with Marquise Shape
Diamonds - George Hakim Jewelers
Dress, Jean Louis Sabaji





Mixed Fancy Cut Diamonds Necklace
and Earrings - George Hakim Jewelers
Dress, Bazaza





Necklace and Earrings Set with Diamonds &
Royal Blue Sapphire - George Hakim Jewelers
Jacket, Rami Kadi



Spectacular 7cts Each Cushion Cut
Diamonds with Yellow on top, Yellow
Diamond Solitaire 10ct surrounded with
Baguette - George Hakim Jewelers
Dress, Yassmin Saleh



Necklace Fancy Yellow Diamond Center
enhanced by White Diamonds, Earrings
Matching Necklace - George Hakim Jewelers
Dress, Rami Kadi

PHOTOGRAPHER: EISN LAHOUD STYLIST: YASMINA KARAM MAKEUP: SHARBEI HASBANY HAIR: REMAH
JAMMOUL LOCATION: KOD PRODUCTION MODEL: TANIA ITANI @LOCALVICE



Solitaire Emerald Cut, Wedding Ring Diamonds
Emerald Cut, 3 Tennis Bracelets of Different Cut
Diamonds - George Hakim Jewelers
Cape, Bazaza



A dazzling tribute

Chanel's N°5 Fine Jewelry Collection captures the essence of Gabrielle's favorite number



Chanel's N°5 Collection is a sparkling homage to Gabrielle Chanel's most cherished numeral. The iconic figure 5 is reimagined through a dazzling display of diamonds, tracing its form with a brilliance that mirrors a ribbon of light. Each piece, intricately paved with diamonds, features a standout center diamond nestled in a bezel setting, reminiscent of the timeless seal found on Chanel's legendary perfume bottle.

The collection speaks volumes of Chanel's legacy, where the long necklace, a hallmark of Gabrielle Chanel's personal style, takes center stage. The "LES INFINIS DE N°5" necklace, a masterpiece in itself, is versatile in its wearability, echoing Chanel's philosophy of elegance and adaptability. Crafted in 18K beige or white gold with ingeniously concealed clasps, it allows its wearer to drape it in endless styles, from a classic single strand to a chic double-row or an edgy bracelet wrapped around the wrist.



"THE DESIGN CAPTURES THE FLUIDITY OF THE PERFUME IN A FROZEN CASCADE OF DIAMONDS"



Pioneering visions

Bulgari Studio celebrates innovative crossroads of creativity and design

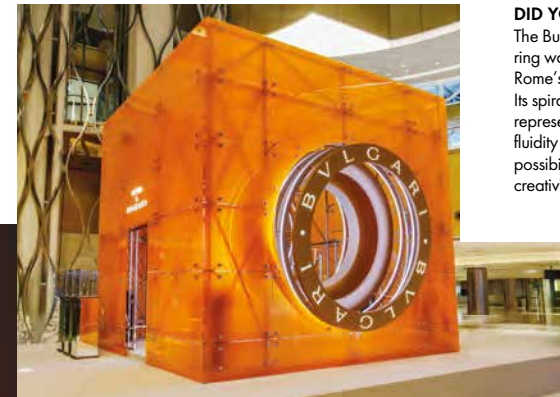
Welcome to Bulgari Studio, a place where Rome's storied jeweler meets today's creative leaders. Starting off in the lively center of Seoul, this innovative space is stirring conversations between artists, designers, and thinkers. It's a blend of Bulgari's bold heritage with the fresh ideas of contemporary creators, redefining the boundaries of design and aesthetics.

On a recent March evening, the Théâtre des Lumières transformed into a stage for innovation and artistic exchange. Bulgari Studio launched with a celebration that mixed the jeweler's classic elegance with cutting-edge digital art and performances. The event put the spotlight on Bulgari's iconic B.zero1 and also breathed new life into the Bulgari Bulgari and Tubogas collections.

Guests experienced a blend of installations and performances that merged digital with physical, creating a seamless interactive space. French choreographer Sadeck Berrabah and digital artist Antoni Tudisco brought Bulgari's designs to life in ways that captured the imagination, showing how collaboration can transform tradition into new, exciting forms.

JUST THE BEGINNING...

The launch in Seoul is just the beginning of Bulgari Studio's global tour, promising to connect creative minds across the world. Each stop will explore new partnerships and ideas, continually pushing what's possible in jewelry, design, and beyond.



DID YOU KNOW?
The Bulgari B.zero1 ring was inspired by Rome's Colosseum. Its spiral design represents the fluidity and infinite possibilities of creativity.

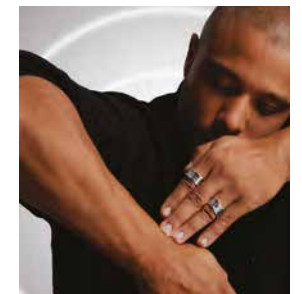
"CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF INNOVATIVE DESIGN, THE B.ZERO1 COLLECTION HAS EVOLVED THROUGH COLLABORATIONS WITH ARCHITECTS AND ARTISTS, CONTINUOUSLY PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF JEWELRY DESIGN."



A multi-disciplinary artist who blends music, digital art, and futurism, Anyma's immersive audio-visual performance at the Bulgari Studio event in Seoul explored new realms of artistic expression, deeply connected to the original design language of the B.zero1.



German-based Italo-Philippine digital artist Antoni Tudisco is known for his surreal and vibrant artworks. His digital campaign for Bulgari Studio reimagines the iconic B.zero1 ring, showcasing a kaleidoscope of possibilities through his unique visual language.



French choreographer Sadeck Berrabah is renowned for his mesmerizing performances that focus on intricate arm and hand movements. His choreography for the event engaged in a poetic dialogue with Bulgari's aesthetic, emphasizing harmony and fluid motion.

Cover story

BEHIND THE SCENES
**CARMEN
& BASSEL**
OFF
SCRIPT

ELLE Arabia sat down with *Carmen Bsaibes and Bassel Khaiat* to explore the intricacies of their latest TV series "*Nazrit Hobb*" (A Look of Love), a narrative woven with *unconventional love* and *dramatic twists*. During this glamorous shoot bedecked in Bulgari jewelry and timepieces, the stars opened up about their roles, personal connections to *their characters*, and *memorable moments* both on and off the set

Photographer AMER MOHAMADW
Creative Direction AHMED RASHWAN



Carmen:
BULGARI High Jewelry Serpenti Necklace in White Gold with Emerald Eyes and Diamonds;
BULGARI High Jewelry Earrings in White Gold with Emerald (7.81 cts) and Diamonds;
BULGARI High Jewelry Earrings in White Gold with Emeralds (7.96 cts) and Diamonds
Suit, Jacquemus

Bassel:
Bulgari Octo Finissimo Octagonal Watch (40mm) in Carbon Case, Black Dial, Automatic Movement, Waterproof 100m;
BULGARI Bzero.1 Ring in Rose Gold with Black Ceramic

Carmen:
BULGARI High Jewelry
Necklace in White
Gold with Rubellites,
Amethysts, Emeralds,
Sapphires and
Diamonds; BULGARI
High Jewelry Ring
in White Gold with
Emerald (4.46 cts) and
Diamonds; BULGARI
High Jewelry Earrings
in White Gold with
Diamonds
*Look, Del Core; Shoes,
Givenchy*

Bassel:
BULGARI Octo Roma
A Octagonal Watch
(41mm) in Stainless
Steel Case, Grey Dial
and Interchangeable
Bracelet, Automatic
Movement,
Waterproof 100m;
BULGARI Bzero.1
Bracelet in White Gold
with Diamonds



Bassel:
BULGARI Octo Roma
Octagonal Watch
(41mm) in Stainless
Steel Case, Grey Dial
and Interchangeable
Bracelet, Automatic
Movement, Waterproof
100m; BULGARI Bzero.1
Bracelet in White Gold
with Diamonds
*Suit, Brunello Cucinelli;
Trench, BOSS; Shoes,
Berluti*

Carmen:
BULGARI High Jewelry
Necklace in White Gold
with Rubellites, Amethysts,
Emeralds, Sapphires,
and Diamonds; BULGARI
High Jewelry Ring in
White Gold with Emerald
(4.46 cts) and Diamonds;
BULGARI High Jewelry
Earrings in White Gold
with Diamonds





BULGARI High Jewelry Serpenti Necklace in White Gold with Onyx Elements, "South Sea" Pearls, Corals, Emeralds and Diamonds; BULGARI High Jewelry Serpenti Earrings in White and Yellow Gold with Rubies and Diamonds
Dress, Kristina Fidelskaya



BULGARI Octo Roma Octagonal Watch (41mm) in Stainless Steel Case, Green Dial Automatic Movement, Waterproof 100m; BULGARI Bzero.1 Necklace in Rose Gold with Black Ceramic
Suit, Brunello Cucinelli

BULGARI High Jewelry Divas' Dream Necklace in Rose Gold with Tanzanite, Sapphires and Diamonds; BULGARI Divas' Dream Watch (37mm) in Gold Case and Bracelet with Diamonds, Mother of Pearl Dial, Automatic Movement, Waterproof 30m; BULGARI High Jewelry Divas' Dream Earrings in Rose Gold with Tanzanite, Sapphires and Diamonds
Dress, Sara Mrad



BULGARI Octo Finissimo Octagonal Watch (40mm) in Stainless Steel Case, Pink Dial, Automatic Movement, Waterproof 100m; BULGARI Serpenti Viper Ring in White Gold
Jacket, Berluti



Tell us about your latest series "Nazrit Hobb" (A Look of Love).

Carmen: It was an incredible experience, quite different and new for me. I was eager to portray a novel character and embark on an adventure unlike any I had experienced before. Initially, my character's wild side wasn't revealed; we wanted to gradually set the stage for what was to come later in the series. The turning point of my character being admitted to an asylum presented a unique challenge, which I found invigorating as an actress. Though playing this role was challenging, it was equally rewarding. The story is both bizarre and beautiful, and collaborating with the entire team, especially the director and Bassel Khaiat, was truly inspiring."

What traits do you share with the character you play?

Bassel: I share many traits with the character I portrayed, though romance is not among them. The series "Nazrit Hobb" explores a different concept of love than the everyday abstract love we experience, where the souls of two people meet despite having nothing in common, each willing to sacrifice everything in life to preserve their relationship. It's a pure and abstract form of love, free of any self-interest. It transcends ordinary love, as if it were born into another world. It's rare, and if it does exist, it's challenging to sustain.

What's a behind-the-scenes moment from filming "Nazrit Hobb" (A Look of Love) that will always make you smile when you think back on it?

Bassel: Filming "Nazrit Hobb" was challenging due to difficult conditions. However, I vividly remember a scene where I danced, a smile blending with feelings of pain, joy, freedom, and nostalgia, all to the tunes of a song beloved by my character "Bahr," titled "Ana Aachak L Bahr" (I Love the Sea). I also recall a funny moment from the first or second episode with a little girl named Shadia, who is referred to as Mona after my deceased sister. In one scene, I ask her about the key to my room, and she always hides and scares me, but one time she truly scared me!

Carmen: There were many joyful moments. I feel fortunate to have been part of this series. The team was perfect, making it hard to single out just one memory.

What about a special moment during this shoot with Bulgari?

Carmen: The experience with Bulgari was elegant and special. I appreciate expressive jewelry that reflects a unique personality, something I consider when choosing my wardrobe. I prefer understated elegance, like pairing large earrings with a simple black dress. Bulgari's jewelry, with its storytelling, distinctive color interactions, and striking yet elegant designs, perfectly aligns with my style.

What's the most significant piece of advice you've ever received regarding your career, and how has it shaped your work?

Bassel: Interestingly, it's not advice from any one person but rather novels and literary texts I've read throughout my life, alongside my own experiences, that have shaped my path. Experience isn't just about going through events personally; it's about trying, metaphorically stepping out, and observing these experiences to discern what one has gained, without bias. One must see them from an outsider's perspective, as people often view themselves as the heroes of their own stories.

How has being a public figure shaped you?

Carmen: Being in the public eye inevitably influences various aspects of life, though I might not always notice the changes. Since my first role in the series 'Damaa' (Tears) at 18, my career has evolved gradually. While this progression has shaped my personality, it doesn't define me. I remain true to my core principles and simple joys in life.

Bassel: Fame has brought me greater wisdom in life. It has made me more cautious about various aspects of life, more introspective, and more honest with myself. I've realized that the allure of fame, if pursued for self-aggrandizement, can be destructive. Initially, fame is exhilarating, but over time, one must learn to differentiate between chasing fame and leveraging it

to grow from past mistakes and those made by others, to reach a point where you understand that fame can be deadly if not handled wisely

What advice would you give to your younger self?

Bassel: That's a great question. I would advise myself not to be so sensitive. Ironically, while an artist needs to be sensitive, excessive sensitivity can be detrimental.

Carmen: I would tell my younger self to be bolder and more assertive in expressing opinions. Although I've always held opinions, initially, I lacked the courage to voice them. Starting young in the industry, it's important to speak up while respecting certain boundaries.

Carmen, tell us about your experience directing.

Carmen: After completing my master's degree in directing, I explored this field by directing a short fashion film for Miu Miu. This dual perspective of directing and acting helps me see the whole picture, though I make sure to focus solely on my acting during shoots to fully immerse myself in the character.

If you weren't acting, what career path do you think you would have followed, and why?

Bassel: I have a deep affinity for business administration, not just the field itself, but also its underlying principles. Additionally, I have a love for art, particularly art that embodies unique creative expression.

How do you find balance between the demanding schedules of your career and personal time?

Bassel: For me, a single real day throughout the entire year suffices. If I could condense specific meaningful moments into 24 hours over a year, that would be enough. Sleep often opens many closed windows in one's life, potentially revealing solutions to ongoing pressures. The key here is not the quantity of time, but its quality, and this doesn't necessarily mean spending time with others but rather with oneself and family. However, for me, time spent is meaningless without purpose.

Carmen: My career is demanding, so I prioritize taking breaks between projects. After wrapping up a series and moving into an advertising campaign, I plan to take some time for personal reflection and to focus on my personal life.

How do you prepare yourself before a show or movie? Do you follow certain routines?

Carmen: Preparation is dominated by script analysis. I spend considerable time daily reading and repeatedly reviewing the script to ensure I fully understand the character. The emotional state required for each scene also influences my preparation, especially for intense roles, such as the one in 'Nazrit Hobb'.

Bassel: Absolutely, I always prepare both theoretically and practically. Theoretical preparation is consistent, but practical preparation can change dramatically; I don't make definitive decisions in the first week, and everything could change after the first two days. This has happened on several occasions, like in the series "The Writer," and in another series directed by Rami Hanna, where after filming for an entire day, we decided to overhaul the entire concept, which changed the series entirely.

What do you do to relax after filming?

Carmen: After a project, I focus on regaining my health. I usually lose three or four kilos due to altered eating and sleeping patterns during filming, and my body can't handle that. I resume exercising, enjoy nature walks, swim in the summer, and travel to detach from the film world.

Bassel: Those close to me know my fondness for the singer "Shaden," who has a soothing effect on me and can transport me to any world I desire. This is in conjunction with the comfort I find at home with my family and children, which might be stressful for some, but I thrive in that kind of environment.

PHOTOGRAPHER AMER MOHAMMAD, CREATIVE DIRECTION AHMED RASHWAN @1602STUDIO, MAKEUP MICHEL KWARKIS, HAIR DEENA ALAWAID, GROOMER SEBASTIAN ISKANDER, SET DESIGN YEHIA BEDEIR, FASHION ASSISTANTS ROZEITA ZAITIKYAN & ANNA GALISEVA, LOCATION BICKIBOSS, MODELS CARMEN BSAIBES, BASSEL KHAIAI

Carmen:
BULGARI High Jewelry Serpenti Bracelet in Rose and White Gold with Emerald Eyes, Tourmalines and Diamonds;
BULGARI High Jewelry Necklace in Rose Gold with Tourmalines, Spinel, Tanzanites and Diamonds
Dress, Sara Mrad

Bassel:
BULGARI Octo Roma Octagonal Tourbillon Watch (41mm) in Rose Gold Case, Black Dial Mechanical Movement, Waterproof 50m
Suit & Tshirt, D&G





A STAR REBORN

It bags come and go, but *Prada's Galleria* has proved that it's a *forever classic*. Meet this year's *iteration* – a *new version* that promises to never go out of style.

From sleek nylon backpacks to the '90s reminiscent Cleo shoulder bags, Prada's iconic bags have effortlessly found their place in our closets time and time again. One such style that changed our tote-wearing habits forever was the Galleria – a rectangular bag with curved top handles that, although references classic handbag styles of the past, oozes a timelessness that works for today, tomorrow and years to come. Named after the brand's historic flagship boutique, opened by Mario Prada in the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II in 1913, and first offered in the Maison's patented Saffiano leather, the Galleria silhouette has been reimagined and reinvented in a myriad of hues and contrasting materials, all composed of 83 individual pieces meticulously hand-finished and topped off with the signature Prada triangle.

So what makes it the right bag for right now? In its latest iteration for 2024, the Galleria gets a budding reinvention, blossoming with three-dimensional floral blooms, all hand-worked one by one in fine leather. The planes of the bag allow flowers to erupt, either finely-coiled rosebuds or full-blown anemones, reimagined as graphic devices by Prada's virtuoso craftspeople. Elsewhere, the collection is rethought in both surface and structure, inside and out, with soft calfskin exteriors and nappa linings providing the bag with a fresh malleability that seems to shift with touch. Metal hardware is gold-plated and hard to miss on a line of colors that shift from purest black to a palette of warm neutrals, while Micro-stud applications (also plated in gold) transform the surface giving off a youthful spirit and modern energy to what is a very classic silhouette.

THE PLANES OF THE BAG ALLOW FLOWERS TO ERUPT, EITHER FINELY-COILED ROSEBUDS OR FULL-BLOWN ANEMONES, REIMAGINED AS GRAPHIC DEVICES BY PRADA'S VIRTUOSO CRAFTSPEOPLE



SCARLETT JOHANSSON / GALLERIA BAG

PRADA



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

Nothing screams a new bag is here like a celebrity-faced campaign, and for Galleria's latest 2024 drop, it's Scarlett Johansson once again who takes over. The worlds of acting and style intertwine, this time celebrating the artistry of performance and the profound influence of personal identity. Here, the magnetic draw of the movie star is harnessed as a means of connecting to character, to personality, and to that constant shifting of identity that emblemizes both film and fashion. Captured in New York City by director Jonathan Glazer, the still and motion images showcase Johansson as an actor, honing her art – repeating phrases with different feeling and meaning, she showcases the infinite self-transformation that define an actor's skill. Abstracted, unreal, it is film at its most cinematic. Central to the campaign narrative is the iconic Prada Galleria handbag. However, instead of merely spotlighting a product, the campaign imbues the Galleria bag with a deeper significance, positioning it as a symbol of life, seamlessly woven into the fabric of a woman's everyday ensemble.



SCARLETT JOHANSSON / GALLERIA BAG

PRADA





WOMEN

Trailblazers in Sport

NOMINATED BY THE 45 EDITIONS OF ELLE INTERNATIONAL, THESE SPORTSWOMEN ARE PREPARING TO COMPETE IN THE PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES. THEY ARE TRULY INSPIRING, AND HERE'S WHY.

Whether they swim, run, climb or jump, they have *devoted their lives to sport* at the highest level, demonstrating unrivalled mental strength. Some have overcome *personal hurdles*, showing *extreme resilience*, others are committed to *worthy causes*. Undeniably, they are a *source of inspiration* to everyone. *In our hearts*, they are already winners!

Edited by VIRGINIE DOLATA,
ELISE WEBBER & EVELYN SHARP





AURELIANO ALEJOS JIMÉNEZ

"The Olympics are undoubtedly the biggest celebration in sports, the highest-level competition where all athletes aspire to be and win a medal. I know it can be achieved."

GABRIELA AGÚNDEZ
 SYNCHRONISED DIVING
 Representing Mexico, 23 years old

WHO IS SHE? Gabriela Agúndez embarked on her sports journey at the age of seven. Her childhood dream to participate at the Olympic Games was realized at Tokyo 2020 where she secured a bronze medal. In 2023 she claimed a double gold, winning the women's 10m dive, and the 10m synchronised dive alongside Alejandra Orozco at the Pan American Games.
WHY HER? She staunchly supports gender equality, firmly believing that both men and women have the capacity to achieve any goal they set their minds to. Gabriela is also a Nike Mexico ambassador, committed to encouraging the youth of today to become agents for change and creating an inclusive and equitable future for athletes both locally and globally.

make a
SPLASH

CUTTING THROUGH THE WATER AND SOCIETAL BOUNDARIES TOWARDS A FAIRER AND BRIGHTER FUTURE



AURELIANO ALEJOS JIMÉNEZ

ALEJANDRA OROZCO
 SYNCHRONISED DIVING
 Representing Mexico, 26 years old

"I am a firm believer that competitions and results are built in training; those medals aren't magic, but pure sweat and daily effort."

WHO IS SHE? Alejandra Orozco is a silver and bronze medallist (London 2012 and Tokyo 2020 respectively). She was 15 years old when she won her first Olympic medal, becoming the youngest in the history of Mexican diving to win a medal at this level, alongside the most prominent Mexican diving figure, Paola Espinosa.
WHY HER? Characterised by resilience and a commitment to her goals, Alejandra has used her voice as a platform to inspire other women from her state, holding a conference at the Expo Guadalajara in 2023. As a military athlete, she received the award for Sporting Merit for her double Gold at the Pan American Games.

ANCUTA BODNAR & SIMONA RADIS
 ROWING DOUBLE SCULLS
 Representing Romania, 25 years old & 24 years old

WHO ARE THEY? The Romanian rowers are already Olympic gold medallists after winning the Double Sculls competition in Tokyo while setting their own Olympic record. At that time, they were already some of the biggest stars in Romanian sports, having already won the European Championships twice, in 2020 and 2021, and taking home the silver medal at the World Championship in 2019.

WHY THEM? Young and determined, these two women are a constant inspiration. In recent years, they have been working with an initiative created by The Romanian Rowing Federation, called The Champions' Forest where they help reforestation efforts in heavily affected areas. They also participated in the 'greening' of the greatly polluted Lake Snagov, which is a base for aquatic sports and fishing.



"Competitive sport has become a part of us. Having been a team since 2019, we have managed to build such a strong connection and aspire to break our own Olympic record. We want to write history and we are not stopping here."



MÁRIA ERDI
 SAILING
 Representing Hungary, 26 years old

WHO IS SHE? Mária Erdi is a Hungarian competitive sailor and started out as part of the World Sailing's Youth Emerging Nations Program in 2015, developed to support the careers of upcoming sailors from nations where the sport is less established. She has gone on to win Hungary's first-ever gold medal in an Olympic Class at the 2023 World Championships in The Hague. In 2024, she won the country's first European title at the ICLA 6 European Championships.
WHY HER? Mária is one of the greatest hopefuls of Hungarian sailing. In 2023 she was named Hungarian Sportswoman of the Year - this was the first time the title was awarded to a sailor. Maria will also participate in the European Cup and World Cup in Mallorca and France respectively.

"I'm lucky because I've found something in life that I passionately love and each day I strive to achieve my goal."

CHIARA FERRETTI
 WINDSURFING
 Representing Argentina, 16 years old

WHO IS SHE? Chiara has been training at Club Náutico Córdoba (in her hometown) since she was a child. Her first competition was almost ten years ago, and in March of 2023, she dominated the Women's division of the Windsurfing Formula Foil Youth and Masters World Championships.
WHY HER? In November 2023, Chiara competed at the Pan American Games, and after a very close competition finished fourth, just three points away from the bronze medal. At 16 years old, this performance secured her position at the Olympics in Paris later this year.



"The truth is that I'm very happy about this achievement and this recognition from my city [...] it still hasn't sunk in that I've managed to qualify for the Olympic Games."

COURTESY LA VOZ DEL INTERIOR

CATE CAMPBELL

SWIMMING
Representing Australia - 31 years old

WHO IS SHE? A three-time Olympic gold medallist and current world record holder for the 4x100m relay with Team Australia, Cate also holds a personal world record in the 100m freestyle. Competing in what will likely be her last ever Olympics, she will leave the sport as the first Australian swimmer to compete in five Olympic Games.

WHY HER? After being diagnosed with melanoma in 2018, Cate became an official ambassador for the Melanoma Institute of Australia. She has also been outspoken about the struggles of body image as an elite athlete, finding inspiration from Michael Phelps' book to seek help from a dietitian. In addition, she supports Nexus Care, an NGO improving the lives of those living in poverty in her hometown Brisbane.



"I'm not dreaming of any podium or medal around my neck, I'm just focusing on what I need to do today in order to be better tomorrow."

MACARENA CEBALLOS

SWIMMING
Representing Argentina, 29 years old

WHO IS SHE? Macarena Ceballos is Argentina's champion swimmer, studying sports journalism at the University of Palermo. She has set three Argentinian records and one South American record at the María Lenk Trophy in Rio de Janeiro. At 28, she won her first medal, a bronze in the women's 100m breaststroke at the 2023 Pan American Games.

WHY HER? Macarena has endured numerous challenges outside of her sport, most notably the passing of her mother in 2007 when she was only 12 years old, which had an immense impact on her. In 2021, she underwent shoulder surgery, an operation that prevented her from competing at the Tokyo Olympics.

"For me, it's always been a dream to be part of the Argentine national team [...] it's a wonderful feeling."



YE SHIWEN

SWIMMING
Representing China - 28 years old

WHO IS SHE? Having previously set the Olympic record for the women's 200m medley at 16, only a year later Ye became the first Chinese swimmer to win at the Olympic Games, the FINA World Championships (longcourse and short-course), the Swimming World Cup, Asian Games and National Games, becoming the first to win the Golden Slam.

WHY HER? Shiwen took a break from swimming, after winning the championships at 17, and enrolled at Tsinghua University to study LAW. Years later, she decided to return to the pool and start from scratch; this time, it was out of sheer dedication and love for the sport. In 2023, at the age of 27, she was standing on the top podium of the Asian Games again after nine years and preparing herself for the Paris Olympics.

"I like to devote myself to a goal with quiet focus."

"If you have a dream, have a plan and do the impossible to achieve it!"



FARIDA OSMAN

SWIMMING
Representing Egypt - 28 years old

WHO IS SHE? Farida left Cairo after high school to study and swim at the University of California, Berkeley. In 2011, she became the Junior World Record Holder in the 50M BUTTERFLY, placing Egypt on the leader board for the first time. Osman is also the African Continental Record Holder in 50m Freestyle, and 50m and 100m Butterfly. In 2017, she was named the African Female Athlete of the Year.

WHY HER? Farida's participation in three Olympic Games and being the only Egyptian, Arabic, and African athlete to achieve two medals in the World Championships are testament to her dedication to the sport. Her success on the international stage serves as an inspiration for aspiring athletes not only in Egypt but also across the Arab World and Africa.



"If I'm having the thought that my opponent is better than me, I have already lost half the battle."

SIOBHAN BERNADETTE HAUGHEY

SWIMMING
Representing Hong Kong, 26 years old

WHO IS SHE? Named 'Best of the Best' at the Hong Kong Sports Star Awards in 2022, Siobhan is the first swimmer from Hong Kong to ever win an Olympic medal and gold at the Asian Games. After a double silver at Tokyo 2021, Siobhan earned the title of 'overall winner' with seven golds at the Fina Swimming World Cup in 2022. In 2023 she broke the women's World Cup 200m freestyle record and later took home two gold medals at the U.S. Open.

WHY HER? Aside from her many sporting achievements, Siobhan has dedicated time to charity work, having participated in a charity swim in Hong Kong for the nonprofit organisation Splash Foundation. The 45km relay swim supported underprivileged communities in Hong Kong learning how to swim.

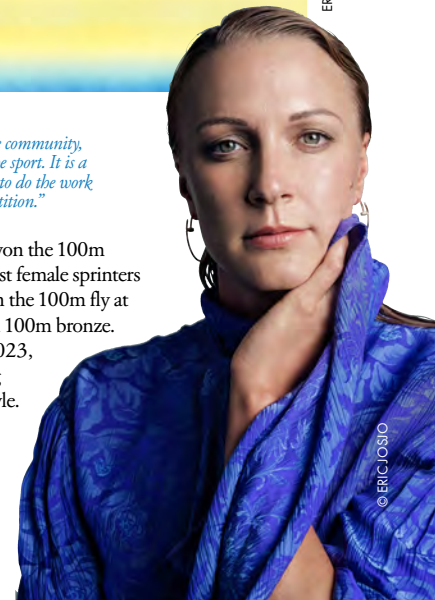
SARAH SJÖSTRÖM

SWIMMING
Representing Sweden - 30 years old

WHO IS SHE? Just four years after starting out as a swimmer at 14, Sarah Sjöström won the 100m butterfly European title and debuted at the Beijing Olympics. She is one of the greatest female sprinters of all time in the pool, winning Sweden's first ever female Olympic swimming title in the 100m fly at the Rio Olympics 2016. At the same games, she also took home the 200m silver and 100m bronze.

WHY HER? Named Swedish Female Athlete of the Year for the sixth time in 2023, Sjöström won her 21st medal in individual World Championship races, surpassing Michael Phelps' record of 20 and setting the second fastest time for the 50m freestyle.

"I love swimming for many reasons. The community, the travel, the challenges I face through the sport. It is a satisfying feeling (with or without success) to do the work and training required for a competition."



"I'm one of those people who, when everyone says, 'You can't do that', says, 'Yeah, I can' that's a sprinter mentality."

MATTHEW QUINE



DINA ASHER-SMITH
TRACK & FIELD
Representing GB,
28 years old

WHO IS SHE? Olympic sprinter Dina Asher-Smith is the fastest British woman in history. At only 13 she ran a world best time for 300m. In 2015, she became the first British woman to run the 100m in under 11 seconds, then in the summer of 2018, she won triple gold (100m, 200m, 4x100m) at the European Championships in Berlin, becoming the fastest woman in the world in the 200m. At the 2019 IAAF World Athletics Championships, she became the first British

woman to win a World Title in the 100m and 200m sprints. WHY HER? An outspoken advocate for women in sports, she also promotes positive body image, encouraging young girls to not be afraid of a more muscular build, making a conscious effort to show more muscle in shoots. As a former columnist for The Telegraph, she offered an authentic voice and notably wrote an op-ed on the prevalence racism in sport, following the death of George Floyd in 2020, praising her fellow athletes that took the knee at the 2021 Olympics.

ANITA HORVAT
TRACK & FIELD
Representing Slovenia,
27 years old

WHO IS SHE? Anita Horvat is a Slovenian sprinter and middledistance runner and a ten-time national champion. Having competed at the Tokyo Olympics, Anita has notably gone on to take home the silver medal in the 4x400-meter relay at both the Mediterranean Games in 2022 and the European Team Championships in 2021. WHY HER? Anita often advocates for an active lifestyle. For her, athletics is not just a daily training, but a part of her life that she enjoys immensely. She is also a member of the Slovenian Armed Forces and has previously participated in the Military World Games.

"When it hurts, speed up. In athletics, I completely agree with that."

On your MARKS

RACING AHEAD OF THE CURVE, REPRESENTING AND INSPIRING ALL WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD.

LÉA BAYEKULA
PARA ATHLETICS
Representing Belgium, 28 years old

WHO IS SHE? Léa Bayekula competes in wheelchair racing. She was inspired to pursue Olympic level sport by Cynthia Bolingo, a fellow Belgian athlete, who she still looks up to. In 2021, Bayekula won a bronze medal at the European Championships and set a 400m European record in February 2024. WHY HER? She has spina bifida, a condition resulting from incomplete development of the spine that occurs before birth. This malformation presents unique challenges, such as paralysis and loss of sensation in the lower limbs. Despite these obstacles, Léa embodies strength and determination, showing the world that resilience and positivity can triumph over adversity.

"I am proud to represent my country on the track, and I am committed to using my voice to advocate for equality and inclusivity in sports and beyond."

JESSIKA GBAI
TRACK & FIELD
Representing the Ivory Coast, 25 years old

WHO IS SHE? Originating from the Ivory Coast, Jessika Gbai trained at university in the US where she massively improved her sprinting ability. She has since represented her country, setting a national record with her 4x100 relay team and winning the 200m at the Francophone Games, the latter of which secured her place for Paris 2024. WHY HER? Having attended Howard University, an historically Black research institution, Jessika has spoken about the inspiring impact of being surrounded by so much history and feeling like herself there. Jessika has left a strong legacy as an alumnus, breaking the university records and winning Women's Athlete of the Year 2022 at the Bison Blue Carpet Awards.

CHRISTIAN PETERSEN



"The battles I've had to face have all made me grow, they've all been stepping stones, and allowed me to learn values... I almost feel like saying I'm a survivor."

MOB - NAGY WEINER ATTILA



MICHELLE GULYÁS
PENTATHLON
Representing Hungary, 23 years old

WHO IS SHE? Michelle Gulyás is a four-time National Champion in the Modern Pentathlon; she has had a successful last few years, winning silver at the 2022 World Modern Pentathlon Championships and bronze in the European Championships in the same year. Having competed at Tokyo 2020, she is now a strong favourite for Paris 2024. WHY HER? Competing alongside the Hungarian women's team to win the bronze medal at the European Games 2023, Michelle also qualified in the individual competition for the Paris Olympics. On top of her sporting achievements, the 23-year-old has recently graduated from the University of Public Service (L'ENA), where she studied criminal investigation.



ANTIGONI DRISBIOTI
RACE WALKING

Representing Greece, 39 years old
WHO IS SHE? At the age of 39, Antigoni Drisbioti became the oldest racewalker to win a gold medal in a major competition. She has had two highly successful years of racing, starting with 2 gold medals in the 2022 European Championships then followed by another gold at the 2023 European Championships. She also set a Greek record at the 20km Race Walk in Melbourne, qualifying for the Paris Olympics. WHY HER? Despite securing 8th place in the Tokyo Olympic Games, Antigoni nearly lost her Olympic scholarship due to the age limit set for athletes receiving funding. By successfully fighting to resecure it, she proved that age should not be an obstacle to achieve success. She has also recently worked with the charity 'Wheels of Change', running in a team to enable disabled people to complete the Athens Marathon.

In response to her Olympic scholarship being revoked due to her age, "It hit me very hard. It was very demeaning, and that's why I reacted."

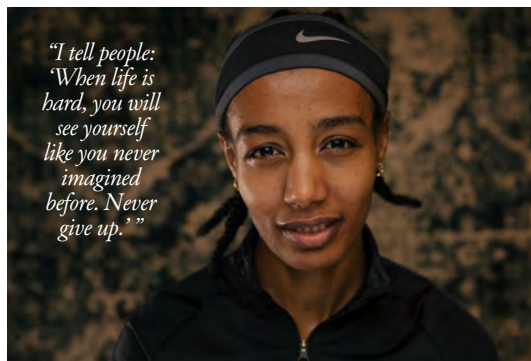


LARISSA IAPICHINO
LONG JUMP

Representing Italy, 21 years old
WHO IS SHE? Born into a talented family of athletes, Larissa started her sporting career very young. By 2019, Larissa had secured her first gold medal at the European Athletics U20 Championships, swiftly followed by another in the 2023 U23 category of the same event. She currently holds the indoor world record for Under 20s. WHY HER? Having qualified for the Olympics in 2021, Larissa injured herself at the Italian Championships, and could no longer compete at Tokyo, making Paris 2024 her first Olympic Games. She was chosen by the fashion brand REDValentino as one of the most inspirational Italian young women in their project, 'Inspired By', and has been studying Law in Florence outside of her training.

"Sport is more a desire for a challenge than for victory. Where there seem to be impossible challenges what matters is always finding the way to jump over [them]."

GABRIELE SEGHIZZI - RED BULL CONTENT POOL



SIFAN HASSAN
TRACK & FIELD

Representing the Netherlands, 31 years old
WHO IS SHE? In 2023, Sifan Hassan won the London marathon despite never having raced one before. She then won bronze at the World Championships 1500m, and silver in the 5000m. Just over a month later, she ran the Chicago Marathon, achieving the 2nd fastest time in history. WHY HER? Five years after arriving in the Netherlands as a refugee, Sifan won the European U23 cross-country title as a Dutch citizen. In 2021 she made Olympic history, placing gold in the 5000m and the 10,000m and bronze in the 1500m, becoming the first to ever medal in all three at the same games. Further testament to her perseverance, despite falling in the final lap of the qualifying round of 1500m at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, she miraculously went on to win the race.

"I tell people: 'When life is hard, you will see yourself like you never imagined before. Never give up.'"

COURTESY POLISH OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



NATALIA KACZMAREK
TRACK & FIELD

Representing Poland, 26 years old

WHO IS SHE? Natalia Kaczmarek is an integral part of Team Poland's success on the track, being the second Polish woman ever to have run the 400m under 50 seconds. She won both gold and silver medals in the 400m relay-race at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. She has also won silver at both the 2022 European Championships and the 2023 World Championships.

WHY HER? In 2022, Kaczmarek was the face of the New Balance 'We Got Now' Campaign and has been an ambassador since 2017. 'We Got Now' aims to inspire the younger generation to boldly redefine themselves in pursuit of their passions, and to act 'now'.

"When you get close to the perfect 100-meter sprint, everything feels light in that moment. It almost feels like flying."



GINA LÜCKENKEMPER
TRACK & FIELD

Representing Germany 27 years old

WHO IS SHE? Coached by the renowned Lance Brauman, Gina is a two-time European champion and has competed at the Olympics twice. At the 2022 European Athletics Championships, Lückenkemper became the first woman in over 25 years to sprint the 100m in under 11 seconds and was crowned 2022's German Sportswoman of the Year.

WHY HER? Gina advocates for innovative training environments, spending five months a year in Florida, where her holistic approach to coaching focuses on mental as well as physical capacity. Moreover, she limits personal vacations to minimize air travel, staying for extended periods of time when she is in the U.S.



ANA PELETEIRO
TRIPLE JUMP

Representing Spain, 28 years old

WHO IS SHE? Ana Peleteiro kickstarted her sporting career at 16 by winning gold at the 2011 European Youth Olympic Festival and at the 2012 World Junior Championships. In 2018, she achieved her first international successes in the senior category as a bronze medallist at the World Indoor Championships and the European Championships.

In her first Olympics, at Tokyo 2020, she won the bronze medal, breaking the Spanish record. **WHY HER?** Adopted two days after birth, Ana has never met her biological parents. Now a mother herself, she returned to her sport only five months after giving birth. Moreover, she advocates for victims of sexual abuse, being a victim of an abusive relationship herself. She shared her experience after having seen an interview on national television that made her realise what she had endured.

"For me, motherhood is something that has empowered me and made me want to move forward."



SHA'CARRI RICHARDSON
TRACK & FIELD

Representing USA, 23 years old

WHO IS SHE? At the age of 19, Sha'Carri Richardson completed a 100m race at Louisiana State University in just 10.75 seconds and catapulted herself into the top 10 fastest runners in history. She has since won gold at the 2023 World Championships, setting a new Championship record in the process. In the same competition, she also won gold with Team USA in the 4x100m relay, in which they set a Championship record.

WHY HER? Despite having qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, Richardson tested positive for THC, and admitted to having taken cannabis following the unexpected death of her biological mother. After the completion of a counselling program, she was put on a 30-day suspension and thus missed competing at Tokyo. She won her first race back after the controversy, the 2023 National Championships, to the roaring support of the crowd.

"I've seen the world be my friend. I've seen the world turn on me. But at the end of the day, I've always been with me."



MARIE-JOSÉE TA LOU
TRACK & FIELD

Representing Ivory Coast, 35 years old

WHO IS SHE?

Named as one of the 100 Most Impactful African Sportsmen and Women, Marie-Josée is a 13-time African medallist. She placed fourth in the 2016 Olympics, missing out on the podium by just seven-thousandths of a second. A year later, she won silver in the

100m and 200m at the 2017 IAAF World Championships. In 2022, she added African record holder for 100m to her list of accolades.

WHY HER? Marie-Josée was originally discouraged by her mother from pursuing a career as an athlete, who felt that being from Africa would hinder her chances. She is now a mentor and inspiration for many runners from the Ivory Coast, seen as a 'big sister' figure, bringing attention to issues such as women's rights, particularly gender equality in sports.

"I believe in the power of sports to transform lives. It's not just about winning races; it's about the values we learn, the friendships we make, and the impact we can have on society."

DANIEL KOPASTICH - RED BULL CONTENT POOL

NAFISSATOU THIAM
PENTHALON/HEPTATHLON

Representing Belgium, 29 years old

WHO IS SHE? From her early success in the junior pentathlon to breaking the 7,000-point heptathlon barrier, Nafi's career is a testament to her brilliance. She is a double Olympic, World, and European heptathlon champion. Notably, she is one of only two heptathletes to win the Olympic gold twice. In 2023, she also set a world indoor pentathlon record.

WHY HER? As a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, Nafissatou has contributed to improving access to education for children worldwide, giving a voice to the most vulnerable. In 2018 she visited programmes in Lebanon dedicated to sport and education. She has also been the face of a Garnier campaign to promote UNICEF's work in education, which helped hundreds of thousands of children in Jordan, Yemen, Bangladesh, India and Mexico.

SANDRA ELKASEVIC
DISCUS THROW

Representing Croatia 33 years old

WHO IS SHE? Sandra Elkasevic is a two-time Olympic champion, two-time World champion, six-time European champion and winner of six Diamond League trophies in discus throwing. From 2012 she held the title of Croatian

Sportswoman of the Year for seven consecutive years and received the award once again in 2022 from the Croatian Olympic Committee.

WHY HER? Apart from being one of the most successful female athletes in Croatia, she also promotes sports for its health benefits and the self-discipline it teaches. She strongly believes in the equality of all athletes and rejects gender norms in the industry.



"Knowledge is not measured by gender, but by dedication and responsibility."



"For the future, I feel more confident about my ability to overcome difficulties because I've already done it."



"The moment I achieve the Grand Slam, I will announce that it is my time."

Serving up ACES

SOARING THROUGH THE RANKS, THEY ARE CALLING FOR JUSTICE AND INCLUSION ON AND OFF THE COURT.

AN SE-YOUNG
BADMINTON
Representing Korea, 22 years old

WHO IS SHE? From being the first middle school student to join South Korea's national team to being the first Korean woman to win at singles in the Asian Games for 29 years, An Se-Young is constantly setting new records. At the 2023 World Championships, she made sporting history by becoming the first and youngest Korean single's player to win the World Championships title. **WHY HER?** Her talent was recognised from a young age as she was named the Most Promising Player of the Year by the Badminton World Federation in 2019. She also won the first tournament of January 2024, the Malaysia Open, setting the year off to a great start. She's won all the major competitions including the Asian Games and World Championships, except the Olympics. An Olympic gold would secure her 'Grand Slam'.



"It is very important to stay strong mentally. The main thing is to improve and believe in yourself."

ELENA RYBAKINA
TENNIS
Representing Kazakhstan, 24 years old

WHO IS SHE? In June 2018 Elena Rybakina became a Kazakhstani citizen and began representing her country in the world tennis arena. As of February 2024, she ranked 4th in the world as per the WTA ranking and this is first time a Kazakhstani sports professional has occupied such a high position in the world ranking. In 2022, she won Wimbledon and became the first Kazakhstani singles player to win a Grand Slam. **WHY HER?** In January 2022, Elena collaborated with Adidas x Parley in their Run for the Oceans initiative (RFTO), raising awareness about marine plastic pollution. Her time was tracked, and every kilometre covered financially supports Parley's Ocean education and clean-up program.



NELSON ROSIER

"When I began to walk again with my prosthesis, I realized it was the first day of my new life."

PAULINE DÉROULÈDE
PARALYMPIC TENNIS
Representing France, 33 years old

WHO IS SHE? Pauline Déroutède is a triple French champion wheelchair tennis player. Previously working in audiovisual production and a weekend tennis coach, Pauline was hit by a 92-year-old driver in 2018. Despite the crash resulting in her left leg being amputated, Pauline almost instantly set her sights on Paris 2024 Paralympics. **WHY HER?** Alongside her tennis training, Pauline passionately advocates against life-long driving licenses. She works with the campaign 'Sauver Des Vies C'est Permis' who are battling to implement lifelong medical check-ups for male and female drivers, to make France's roads safer.



COURTESY NEW BALANCE

"If you can think it, you can do it."

COCO GAUFF
TENNIS
Representing USA, 20 years old

WHO IS SHE? From getting the wild card into Wimbledon where she beat Venus Williams at the age of 15, to becoming the youngest winner of the US Open since Serena Williams in 1999, Coco has shot up through the tennis ranks over the last few years. She has also made it to the finals of the 2022 French Open in singles and the 2021 US Open for doubles. **WHY HER?** Having watched her idols, Serena and Venus Williams play as a young girl, she's spoken about the role they have played in inspiring her. She credited them in her TIME 'Women of the Year' speech in March 2024. She was the only athlete named on the list and at only nineteen years old no less. The women were chosen for their role in 'creating a better future for women' and as 'extraordinary leaders', a testament to Gauff as a representative of the next generation of sporting talent.

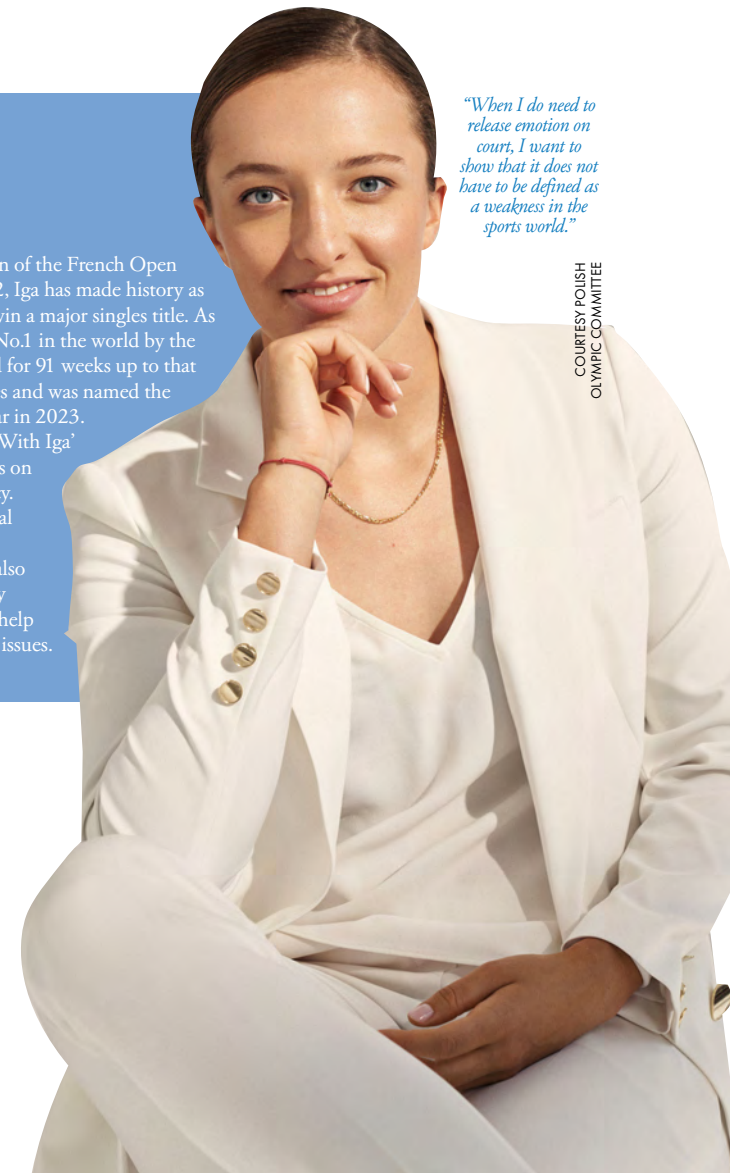


IGA SWIATEK
TENNIS
Representing Poland, 22 years old

WHO IS SHE? Three time champion of the French Open and winner of the USOpen in 2022, Iga has made history as Poland's first ever tennis player to win a major singles title. As of February 2024, she was ranked No.1 in the world by the WTA – a position that she had held for 91 weeks up to that point. Iga now holds 18 singles titles and was named the Polish Sport's Personality of the Year in 2023. **WHY HER?** She founded the 'Read With Iga' challenge, and worked with libraries on World Book Day to promote literacy. Iga has also spoken out about mental health, using her platform as a safe space for those struggling. She has also previously donated her prize money from competitions to charities that help children to deal with mental health issues.

"When I do need to release emotion on court, I want to show that it does not have to be defined as a weakness in the sports world."

COURTESY POLISH OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



"Never give up no matter how hard it gets, keep going and go for it!"

MAYAR SHERIF
TENNIS
Representing Egypt, 27 years old

WHO IS SHE? Mayar Sherif is an accomplished Egyptian tennis player, who made history as the first Egyptian woman to qualify for the Olympics and to reach the main draw of a Grand Slam at the 2020 French Open. She is also the first Egyptian woman to make it to a WTA singles and doubles final, and the first to enter the WTA top 100. **WHY HER?** One of her main goals off the court is to pave the way for young Egyptian and Arab children to pursue professional tennis careers, challenging outdated perceptions of women's sports. Her individual success also contributes to the recognition of Egyptian tennis on the global stage, showcasing her as a trailblazer in her field.

BUSE NAZ ÇAKIROGLU
BOXING (FLYWEIGHT)

Representing Turkey, 27 years old
WHO IS SHE? Buse Naz Cakiroglu was one the first female boxers to qualify for the Olympics in 2021, winning a silver medal in flyweight category. The year before, she won a gold medal at both the European Championships (where she was named the best female boxer) and the European Games.
WHY HER? Cakiroglu is a brand ambassador for the Olympic Mothers Project, which provides financial and moral support to athletes and their mothers who supported their careers. It aims to educate families on the importance of adopting sport at an early age, to in turn raise healthier future generations.



“Success is an important factor to break the gender stereotypes in sports. 5 boxers went to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Three of them were women. People used to ask whether women can do boxing. Now I am getting these questions less and less. We proved that women could do any sports and be successful in any sports including boxing.”

A FIGHTING

Stance

TACKLING GENDER NORMS HEAD ON AND KNOCKING DOWN RECORDS LEFT, RIGHT AND CENTRE.

UTA ABE
JUDO

Representing Japan, 23 years old

WHO IS SHE? Uta is a judo quadruple world champion, having won the title in 2023, 2022, 2019 and 2018. The latter of these years she attained at just 18 years old, making her the third youngest judoka to ever win a senior world title. At Tokyo 2020, Uta became an Olympic gold medalist in the -52kg category. That day, Uta and her brother Hifumi made history, becoming the first siblings to win Olympic gold medals on the same day.
WHY HER? With Japan's judo population on the decline, Uta and her brother Hifumi kickstarted a project to increase its popularity. In 2023, they ran the 'ABE Cup', a friendly judo tournament at a judo school in their hometown Hyogo, providing classes and matches for the younger generation of judokas.



“I want to be resilient, give it everything I have. Judo is my judo and it's how I will try to win the championship.”

PARK24 KAZUYUKI OGAWA

GUILLAUME BLOT



MARZIEH HAMIDI
TAEKWONDO

Representing France, 21 years old

WHO IS SHE? A taekwondo champion in her homeland in Afghanistan, Marzieh Hamidi fled in 2021 after the Taliban's return to power. Upon arriving in France, she joined a taekwondo club and was scouted by one of the coaches. Today she is an IOC Refugee Athlete Scholarship holder and represents the French national team.
WHY HER? A women's rights activist, Marzieh spoke on a panel at the European Parliament event to mark International Women's Day 2023, recounting the discrimination she faced as a female athlete in Afghanistan, crediting sport as a saviour. That October, she was awarded the Medal of Honour by the Deputy of the National Assembly of France and the Minister of Sports for her work fighting for the freedom, and raising the voices, of Afghanistani women.

“The silence of the international how you function in all this.” community on the tragic situation in Afghanistan makes me very sad. We leave Afghan women all alone: forced marriage, banned from attending school or to enjoy their lives. I feel guilty to live the life I live.”

“[...] Girls can wear a hijab and fight [...] Girls can inspire other girls to take the step and follow their dream to practice the sport they love.”

JULYANA AL-SADEQ
TAEKWONDO

Representing Jordan, 29 years old

WHO IS SHE? After winning the Saudi Grand Prix in 2022, Julyana became the first Jordanian and Arab woman to place No.1 in the World Taekwondo rankings. She has had a highly successful last few years, winning two gold medals at the Asian Championships in 2021 and 2022, and achieving silver at the 2023 World Taekwondo Championships.
WHY HER? Not dissuaded by the criticism she faced for playing a combat sport as a woman, her trailblazing achievements have gone on to be championed by the Arab world. In 2023 she was named the Best Arabic Athlete of the Year by the Fatima Bint Mubarak Award. This award was also recognized by Jordan's House of Representatives, who alongside the Youth and Sports Committee, viewed her as a key player in the development of Jordan's sporting achievements on an international platform.



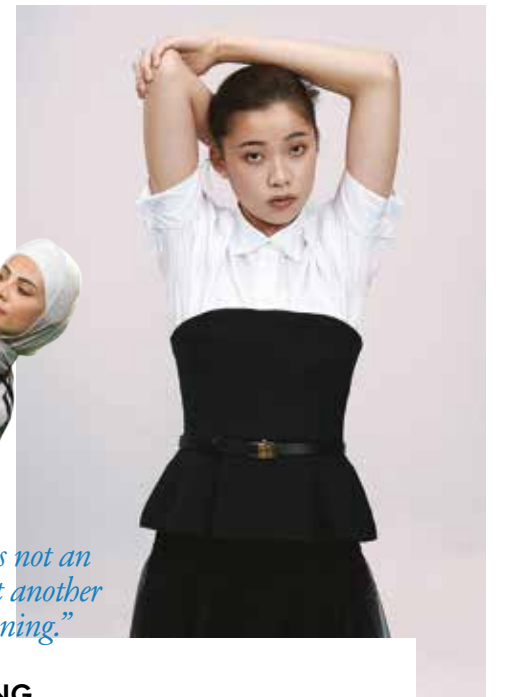
COURTESY JORDAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

“This is not an end, but another beginning.”

LO CHIA-LING
TAEKWONDO

Representing Taiwan, 22 years old

WHO IS SHE? At the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Lo won the bronze medal in the women's 57kg taekwondo category, followed by two silver medals in the 2022 and 2023 World Championships. Competing in these events at the mere age of 19, she became the youngest Taiwanese athlete to ever take on this weight class.
WHY HER? In Taiwan, Taekwondo has always been one of the key Olympic events and so for Lo Chia-Ling to not only have won the bronze medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, but also the silver medal at the 2022 Asian Games is highly impressive, especially for such a young athlete.



“In order to be persistent you have to find love in it every day. [...] It is important to understand yourself and find yourself within sport and “The silence of the international how you function in all this.”

LENA STOJKOVIC
TAEKWONDO

Representing Croatia, 22 years old

WHO IS SHE? At only 22 years old, Lena Stojkovic has already won 5 gold medals at European and World competitions. She is a two-time World and European champion and was named as one of the most successful female athletes of 2023 by the Croatian Olympic Committee.
WHY HER? Paris 2024 will be Lena's first time competing on an Olympic stage as one of the youngest representatives for Croatia. Competing in the -49kg category, Lena has spoken about the challenges of meeting the competition weight categories and the realities of the discipline that it involves.



KUO HSING-CHUN
WEIGHTLIFTING

Representing Taiwan, 30 years old

WHO IS SHE? Having discovered weightlifting in school, Kuo has gone on to be one of Taiwan's most successful weightlifters. Competing in the -59kg category at the Tokyo Olympics, Kuo won a gold medal and broke three Olympic records in the process. She has broken 11 world records so far in her career.
WHY HER? Kuo has faced numerous challenges including a terrible injury before the 2014 Asian Games that tore 70% of the muscle

in her thigh. Despite being confined to a wheelchair for a prolonged period, she rebounded from this setback, achieving a bronze medal just 2 years later in the Rio Olympics. Furthermore, she has changed conceptions of women's weightlifting in Taiwan and was named as one of Asia's Most Influential people by Tatler.

“My biggest opponent is myself.”



LUCA AGATI

Take the LEAP

PERFECT LANDINGS AND POWERFUL STANDPOINTS, THESE WOMEN CAN DO BOTH.

"Passion is the most important thing before discipline. If you enjoy yourself, you can do anything."

SOFIA RAFFAELI RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS Representing Italy - 20 years old

WHO IS SHE? Five-time World Champion, as well as a seven-time all-around gold medallist on the FIG World Cup circuit, Sofia Raffaelli is rightfully nicknamed Atomic Ant, for her willpower, discipline, short stature and "explosive" character. She has also won a gold medal at both the European Championships and the World Games. She is the first Italian to claim the all-around crown in the top circuit.

WHY HER? She is an advocate for the Lilac Ribbon Day (March 15th) dedicated to the National Day against Eating Disorders (DCA): anorexia, bulimia and binge eating. Moreover, she works with the organisation "Tutti a scuola", (All in school) fighting against bullying and youth violence and promoting access to sport for all.



AURELIANO ALEJOS JIMÉNEZ

"Every injury represents the perseverance to keep fighting."

AHTZIRI SANDOVAL ARTISTIC GYMNASTIC Representing Mexico, 27 years old

WHO IS SHE? Ahtziri started gymnastics at just five years old and by her teenage years was competing on an international stage. She is now a two-time Central American and Caribbean Games gold medallist, and gold medallist at the Pan American Games. She competes on the vault, uneven bars and the floor, and following her performance at the World Artistic Gymnastic Championships in 2023, she earned her ticket to Paris.

WHY HER? This is a historic year for Mexican Gymnastics as it is the first year they have had three athletes qualify for the Olympics. Ahtziri is taking full advantage of this to promote the sport and encourage its inclusion in the lives of young people and children in Mexico for both physical and psychological benefit. Above all, her connection is deeply rooted in understanding and identifying with the children who develop a passion for a sport, seamlessly integrating it into their lives.

REBECA ANDRADE ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS Representing Brazil, 24 years old

WHO IS SHE? Rebeca Andrade is the first female Brazilian Olympic medallist in artistic gymnastics. At the Tokyo Olympics she won the silver medal in the all-around and the gold medal in the vault. In 2023, she achieved five medals at the Artistic Gymnastics World Championships, three silver and one bronze, becoming the most decorated Brazilian athlete in the history of this sport.

WHY HER? The daughter of a single mother, Rebeca began training in artistic gymnastics at the age of four through a municipal sports incentive project in her city. When the family couldn't afford transportation, she would walk for two hours, accompanied by her older brother, to the sports gym. In addition to financial difficulties, Rebeca had to undergo three surgeries due to knee injuries. She is an inspiration to the Brazilian people, who were moved by her performance in Tokyo



RICARDO BUFOFINI/CSB

"Don't give up, believe in your dreams, and stay strong. We will always face difficulties, but we have to be strong enough to get through them."

PAULINE SCHÄFER-BETZ ARTISTIC GYMNASTIC Representing Germany, 27 years old

WHO IS SHE? In 2017, Pauline Schäfer-Betz became the first German woman since 1987 to become Gymnastic World Champion. She showcased her talent on the balance beam, representing Germany at the 2016 and 2020 Olympics. Her proudest achievement, although

having won gold, is winning the silver medal at the World Championships in 2021 after the Tokyo Olympics.

WHY HER? Pauline has emerged as a force for change outside the gymnasium. In 2020, she courageously spoke out against psychological abuse from her coach, shedding light on the challenges faced by athletes. She advocates for open communication, autonomy, and the well-being of athletes and is a symbol of empowerment



SHUTTERSTOCK

"On the beam, there's never a guarantee."



HAN XU BASKETBALL Representing China, 24 years old

WHO IS SHE? The star player of the Chinese Women's Basketball Team and the second Chinese female basketball player to join the WNBA. Her professional honours include the Women's Basketball Asia Cup championship and the Hangzhou Asian Games Gold Medal. She was also the MVP of the 2023 Women's Basketball Asia Cup, which China won.

WHY HER? Post-pandemic, in April 2022, 23-year-old Han Xu returned to the New York Liberty setting a career scoring records in the new season. In the same year, she helped the Chinese women's basketball team win the World Cup. She inspires the younger generation of players demonstrating that there is always something to be gained from their endeavours.

"You don't have to shine with boundless radiance, but don't stop shining, take your time, time is always fair."

"When the opportunities come, I grab hold of them and show my abilities. I am patient and will never give up."

"Every flower must grow from dirt."

BRANDIE WILKERSON BEACH VOLLEYBALL Representing Canada, 31 years old

WHO IS SHE? Coming from a family of athletes, Wilkerson started playing indoor volleyball when she was a teenager. She was inspired to try beach volleyball watching the teams at the London 2012 Olympics. Competing alongside teammate Heather Bansley, the pair had a successful FIVB world tour in 2018, which they ended ranked No.1 in the world. Brandie finished fifth at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

WHY HER? Brandie is the first black woman to compete for Team Canada in Beach Volleyball. Having received financial aid from her volleyball community, she was able to join her local under17 club, Peel Selects. With this in mind, Brandie was inspired to co-found Project Worthy; a scholarship program aimed at supporting young BIPOC athletes and increasing their representation in the volleyball community.



MARY FOWLER FOOTBALLER Representing Australia, 21 years old

WHO IS SHE? From playing football in local boys' teams as a child, to signing her first professional contract at 16 years old, Mary now plays for Manchester City and was selected to play with the Matildas (Australia's team) in the 2019 and 2023 FIFA Women's World Cups. The Matildas had an incredible last tournament, making the semi-finals against the UK, watched by a record breaking 11.5 million people (in a population of around 25 million).

WHY HER? As the youngest Matilda in history, Mary is also a passionate ambassador for the charity Rise & Shine, an early childhood kindergarten that promotes STEM learning (science, technology, engineering and medicine). There, Mary supports their FIT program, running football sessions and healthy cooking classes for the children.

"Football is something I want to do for myself but it's important to give something back to the community and to be able to look back at my career and think I did something more."

HUYNH NHU FOOTBALLER Representing Vietnam, 32 years old

WHO IS SHE? Playing for the National Eleven, Huynh Nhu and her team have won the Southeast Asian Games in 2017, 2019 and 2022 as well as the ASEAN Football Federation Championship in 2019. She is currently the top scorer in the history of the national team and has been awarded the Golden Ball five times, the most wins in the 27-year history of the award.

WHY HER? Huynh became the first Vietnamese female footballer to compete abroad after signing a two-year contract with Portuguese club Länk Vilaverdense, where she scored seven goals in her first season. With the National Eleven being one of the youngest international teams, Huynh is helping to raise the status of women's football in Vietnam.



MAITE CHRISTIANS - BEACH VOLLEYBALL MAJOR SERIES - RED BULL CONTENT POOL

"A better society is possible with a way of life where women have a real say, support each other and say out loud that they can be inspired by each other. I think we can achieve that."



ZEHRA GUNES VOLEYBALL

Representing Turkey, 24 years old

WHO IS SHE? A member of Turkey's Women's National Volleyball Team since 2018, Zehra trained first with Turkey's National U20s and U23s teams where she was often awarded the 'Best Middle Blocker' title. In 2023, her current team had a highly successful period, winning the European Championships, the FIVB Cup and the Nations League.

WHY HER? Zehra started playing volleyball at the age of 12 and was quickly spotted for her talent, winning the Stars and Youth Championships in Turkey for two years straight. She was named the league's MVP in the 2021-22 season, and through her and her teammates successes, volleyball has had a huge surge in popularity in Turkey, making it now one of the country's most popular and followed sports.



COURTESY REAL FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE FÚTBOL

"No person, in any [...] environment, should be a victim of nonconsensual behaviour."

JENNI HERMOSO FOOTBALLER Representing Spain, 33 years old

WHO IS SHE? One of the most prolific strikers in women's football history, Jenni Hermoso is Spain's all-time leading female goal-scorer. At 12, she kickstarted her career in her hometown with Atlético Madrid, going on to play for clubs including FC Barcelona and Paris Saint Germain. She became a world champion at the 2023 World Cup, where she received the prestigious Silver Ball award.

WHY HER? The footballer was embroiled in a worldwide controversy caused by a nonconsensual kiss from the former President of the Spanish Football Federation, Luis Rubiales. He is being investigated and may stand trial for sexual assault and coercion. Rubiales' actions sparked a movement similar to #MeToo, called #SeAcabó (#Enough!).

Eye on THE BALL

FROM GOAL ASSISTS TO KICKSTARTING MOVEMENTS, THEY'VE MADE THEIR MARK IN HISTORY.

New Sports ON THE BLOCK

OLYMPIC PIONEERS PAVING THE WAY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

DOMINIKA BANEVIC BREAKING

Representing Lithuania, 16 years old

WHO IS SHE? At only 16 years old, Dominika, also known as B-Girl Nicka, won the gold medal at both the European Championships and the World Championships in 2023. She was announced as the Lithuanian Sportswoman of the Year in December 2023, the first break dancer to ever win the award. **WHY HER?** Hooked from the age of five, Dominika went on to be the youngest in her category at the World Breaking Championships and triumphed over her much more experienced peers. As a result, she secured her ticket to Paris where breaking will make its debut appearance.

"The age doesn't matter in breaking. Some people think that it's hard to battle athletes that are much more experienced than you, but when you battle, you don't think that that dancer [has danced for] 20 years and you seven years. You're in the present moment and it's just you and your opponent."

AMI YUASA BREAKING

Representing Japan, 25 years old

WHO IS SHE? Inspired by the hip hop music her older sister Ayu played as a child, Ami took up breaking at the age of 10. She has since become a two-time Red Bull BC One World Champion, World Champion at the first ever World Dancesport Federation Breaking Championships in 2019, and a gold medalist at the 2022 World Games. She is now also a member of the renowned Red Bull BC All Stars team and sits on the judging panel at competitions such as the School of Hip Hop in Hong Kong. **WHY HER?** A trailblazer in the breaking world, Yuasa was the first ever woman to win the BC One World Champion title and subsequently the first woman to become a member of the BC One All Stars, paving the way for other women in the sport to do the same.

"Being one-of-a-kind is more important than being perfect. I'm excited to represent myself to the world."



ZEN HARU TANAKAWARU



LITTLE SHAO - RED BULL CONTENT POOL

"Breaking is an art form and a means to express myself, but it's also an intense sport."

INDIA SARDJOE BREAKING

Representing The Netherlands, 17 years old

WHO IS SHE? In 2022, India had an extraordinary year, winning not only the Dutch break-dancing Championships, but also the European and World Championships. In the same year, she became the youngest ever winner of the Red Bull BC One Champion in history, at 16 years old. **WHY HER?** Starting at 7 years old, India is celebrated for her seemingly endless energy and enthusiasm. She is inspired by a range of music and learns lots from her groups Hustlekidz and Heavyhitters. She also made the uncommon decision not to adopt a pseudonym, preferring instead to compete under her authentic name.



PORTRAITS BY MATT AND IAN @DHANDCO

SKY BROWN SKATEBOARDING

Representing GB, 15 years old

WHO IS SHE? Sky Brown is Britain's youngest-ever Olympic medallist and the youngest professional skateboarder/surfer in the world. Brown made history in 2021 at the Tokyo Olympics when she picked up bronze in skateboarding in its first year as an official sport at the Games. She also won the BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year award in 2021. **WHY HER?** In 2023, Sky became the Britain's first ever skateboarding World Champion at only fourteen. She strongly promotes the inclusion of girls in both sports, and since her debut at the Tokyo Summer Olympics there has been a dramatic increase in active female skateboarders. She also supports campaigns such as "It's Her Turn" started by Skateistan, an NGO, empowering children through skateboarding and education.

"If people see me, the smallest girl, doing the highest trick, then anyone could think they could do anything."



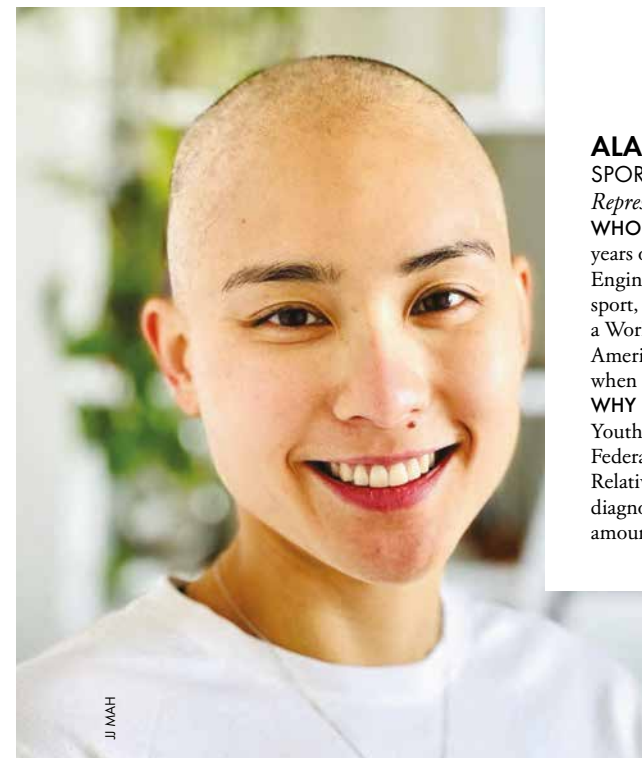
COURTESY NIKE

RAYSSA LEAL SKATEBOARDING

Representing Brazil, 16 years old

WHO IS SHE? In 2020, at just 13 years old, Rayssa won the silver medal in the Street skateboarding category at the Tokyo Olympics, becoming the youngest Brazilian Olympian to win a medal. Since then, Rayssa has won awards at several world championships, including a gold medal at the 2023 Pan American Games in Chile. **WHY HER?** Known for a viral video where she performed skateboard tricks dressed as Tinker Bell at only 7 years old, which was shared by skateboard legend Tony Hawk, she gained the nickname, "Fadinha" (Little Fairy). With her victories in skateboarding, a sport more commonly associated with boys, Rayssa inspires millions of Brazilian girls to believe in themselves and challenge their limits.

"If a 13-year-old girl could represent Brazil, it's because of female skateboarders who inspired me, who show me that a girl can do anything."



JJ MAH

ALANNAH YIP SPORT CLIMBING

Representing Canada, 30 years old

WHO IS SHE? This Vancouver native has been climbing since she was nine years old, but at seventeen she took a break to focus on her Mechanical Engineering degree at the University of Columbia. Upon returning to the sport, she has become the first Canadian woman to advance to the final of a World Cup climbing event (2017) and the first to earn a medal at the Pan American Games. Moreover Alannah represented Canada at Tokyo 2020, when sport climbing made its debut. **WHY HER?** Alannah works as a coach for the Climb Base 5 North Shore Youth Team and is on the Athletes Commission of the International Federation of Sport Climbing, using this platform to speak out against Relative Energy Deficiency (RED-S) in sport. Alannah was also recently diagnosed with Generalized Alopecia Areata, and after losing significant amounts of hair, made the empowering decision to shave her head.

"Shaving my head was me taking back some of the power the disease had stolen. I wanted to look in the mirror and feel empowered and badass, not broken. There was a good chance all of my hair would have fallen out anyway."



MATIC KLANSEK VELEI/SPORTIDA

JANJA GARNBRET SPORT CLIMBING

Representing Slovenia, 25 years old

WHO IS SHE? 8 World Championship titles, 41 World Cup victories and the first-ever female Olympic Gold medallist in climbing, Janja Garnbret is recognised as one of the greatest climbers of all time. In 2023, she was named the Slovenian Athlete of the Year for the fourth time. **WHY HER?** Janja has drawn attention to the issue of malnutrition in climbing (specifically Relative Energy Deficiency in Sport (RED-S)). With a culture of eating disorders still prevalent, she is pushing for coaches to hire dietitians and for RED-S screenings to be mandatory for all World Cup and Continental Cup participants. An advocate for sustainability, Janja moved into a low energy house that produces more energy than it consumes, and every year she supports the planting of trees across different parts of Slovenia.



"Don't be nervous and just shoot it!"

AN SAN
ARCHERY
Representing Korea, 23 years old

WHO IS SHE? At the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, An San won three Olympic titles, making her the first athlete from South Korea to become a triple gold medallist in a single Olympics. She is also currently studying at Kwangju Women's University in the Department of Elementary Special Education. **WHY HER?** After her impressive performance at the Tokyo Olympics, An San was a victim of cyberbullying due to her short haircut and feminist stance. Her fans came to her defence, posting pictures of their own short hair cuts on Twitter and starting 'The Women's Shortcut Campaign'. She also donated her phenomenal 'Robin Hood' arrow (which shot through the arrow of her teammate Kim Je Deok) from the Tokyo Olympic semi-finals to the Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage.

On TARGET

WITH PRECISION AND PERSISTENCE, THESE SPORTSWOMEN ARE SHOOTING FOR EXCELLENCE.



"[Stalking] is traumatic. If you haven't experienced it, you can't understand it. It has not only shaped me but has also defined me: For two years, every move, every action, every moment of mine."

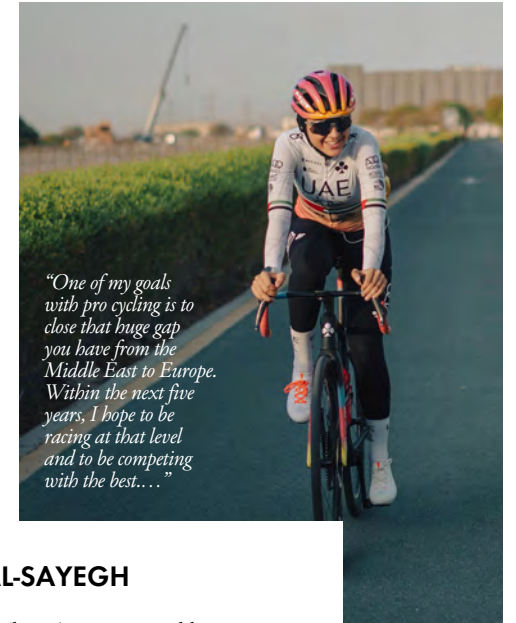
ANNA KORAKAKI
SHOOTING
Representing Greece, 27 years old
WHO IS SHE? Inspired by her father, a former champion shooter and now her coach, Korakaki became a member of the Greek National Team at only 14. She was the first Greek athlete to win two Olympic medals, a bronze and gold at the Rio Olympics in 2016. She was also the first female athlete to receive the Olympic Flame at Ancient Olympia and begin the 2020 torch relay. In 2023 she won three golds, once at the World Cup, then at the European Championships and the European Games. **WHY HER?** Anna has been open about the stalking that she experienced for several years, that resulted in her stalker being sentenced to 5 years in prison. Despite the immense impact that this had on Anna in the run up to the Tokyo Olympics, she still managed to secure sixth place in two categories. Having grown up in rural Greece, Anna has also spoken several times about the difficulties she's faced regarding support from the state as an athlete.



"Horses are like people but with their own personalities. For me, the interaction is very much about freedom. My horses are quite wild, I let them be as they are ..."

WILMA HELLSTRÖM
SHOWJUMPING
Representing Sweden, 30 years old

WHO IS SHE? Wilma first started horse riding at a school in Billdall, Sweden where both her mother and sister rode as well. As a junior she won the individual Nordic and Swedish Championships and the Young Rider European Championships with the national team. In 2023, she made her senior championship debut at the European Championships and her team won gold. **WHY HER?** Her horse Ciccì BJN was about to be sold when she was blinded in one eye in a freak accident and everyone except Wilma counted her out. With a lot of patience and sacrifice, Wilma had to relearn the basics, and after a long recovery process Ciccì was able to successfully compete once again and continues to do so.



"One of my goals with pro cycling is to close that huge gap you have from the Middle East to Europe. Within the next five years, I hope to be racing at that level and to be competing with the best..."

SAFIYA AL-SAYEGH
CYCLING
Representing The UAE, 22 years old

WHO IS SHE? Safiya is the UAE's first professional female cyclist and currently rides for the UCI Women's World Team, UAE Team ADQ. So far, she's accumulated 11 Arab Champion Titles as well as a bronze medal at the U23 Asian Cycling Championships in ITT (Individual Time Trials). On the road to Paris 2024, Safiya historically became the first Emirati woman to ever qualify for the road race at the Olympic Games. **WHY HER?** In the run up to the Olympics, Safiya was selected as the female representative of the UAE's Olympic Committee Athlete Board, to 'share the voice of women athletes in the UAE and try to make a change for the better'. All this, Safiya has achieved alongside studying for a degree at the American University in Dubai, where she has been placed on the Dean's Honour List for outstanding academic achievement.

The ride TO VICTORY

STEADY IN THE SADDLE, THEY ARE TAKING CHARGE IN SPORTS AND BEYOND.

TRINH THU VINH
SHOOTING
Representing Vietnam, 23 years old

WHO IS SHE? Thu Vinh is one of the most talented members of Vietnam's shooting team. She made it into the top five of ten Air Rifle categories at the World Championship in 2023, beating more than 130 competitors from other countries to achieve 579 points. From there, Vinh gained her ticket to Paris 2024, this being the first Olympic challenge for the young shooter. **WHY HER?** Whilst she started as a running athlete, Trinh Thu Vinh switched to shooting. After just one year of training, she won her first two gold medals and made records in the 10m air rifle category at the National Championship for teenagers in 2018. In 2022, Vinh won three gold medals at the Asian Championships. In early 2024, Vinh won another gold medal at the Asian Shooting Championship.



"I want to bring a strong, empowered, energised version of myself to the Paris Olympics 2024, to compete to the best of my ability."

NANNA SKOVBORG MERRALD
DRESSAGE
Representing Denmark, 30 years old

WHO IS SHE? Nanna made her Olympic debut in dressage at the Tokyo Games and is currently the highest-placed Danish rider. Ranked top five in the world, she has won an individual silver at the 2023 European Championships, a Danish team bronze at the 2023 European Championships and a team gold at the 2022 World Championships. **WHY HER?** Nanna has supported the Pippi of Today initiative by raising money through a photoshoot at the 2023 Sweden International Horse Show. Pippi of Today founded by The Astrid Lindgren Company (author of Pippi Longstocking) works in partnership with Save the Children to provide refuge to girls who have been forced to flee their homes due to violence and war and move to new countries.

"As a dressage rider, you can have a very long career, so I'm not in as much of a hurry as athletes from other sports. Therefore, I have time to delve into the smallest details."



LARS MØLLER

"If I can inspire other women and mothers by competing in the Olympics when I've just become a mother, it would be fantastic. But I'm doing it primarily for myself. I wanted to start a family, and I want to compete in the Olympics."

JULIE NORMAN LETH
CYCLING
Representing Denmark, 31 years old

WHO IS SHE? Julie is a member of Uno-X Pro Mobility, a professional Scandinavian UCI Women's World Team. She's a double European champion in Madison racing and won a silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. At the 2022 world championships, alongside her cycling partner Amalie Dideriksen, Julie won both silver and bronze. **WHY HER?** In January 2024, Julie gave birth to her first child and is set to compete at the Paris Olympics just seven months later. Having felt torn between pursuing her cycling and wanting to start a family, Julie has found a way of doing both, and has shared the ups and downs of the whole process. Whilst she has always worked to inspire children to cycle, she now hopes to inspire other women and female athletes too through sharing her pregnancy and post pregnancy training.

Meet Captain Sahar Rasti

Her love for the sea made her chase her dreams and embrace the mighty powers of the ocean, becoming the first female ship captain in the UAE. Now she's empowering women, and breaking barriers to establish policies that support gender inclusivity in a male-dominated industry.

Captain Sahar Rasti, started her career as the first female ship captain in the UAE at the Abu Dhabi Maritime Services Company (Safeen), a subsidiary of Abu Dhabi Ports. She is now living her dream life. As the CEO & Founder of the SJR Group she says, "My work involves managing maritime operations, promoting gender diversity in the maritime industry, and overseeing our company's strategic expansion," she shares. For Captain Sahar, being the first female ship captain in a male-dominated field did not come easy. She needed to persevere with her dreams, and remain committed to her goals to get to where she is. Receiving the greatest support from her family, it was their faith in her that made her achieve everything. "Their constant encouragement has been my backbone throughout the job, especially since this path was filled with both societal and professional challenges," she confesses. Her vision for the next five years is to mentor and empower women to join the maritime industry by establishing inclusive policies and supportive environments within the field. "I am currently working on a project to introduce eco-friendly practices in our shipping operations, aiming to reduce environmental impact and promote sustainability in maritime logistics," she shares. Armed with confidence to carve a new path for women within the maritime industry, Captain Sahar remains committed to her vision.



ELLE

fashion

IN HER STRIDE... Olga Leffers, founder of LEFFERS and owner of VintageDream gallery, merges fashion expertise and historical insight to craft timeless attire. With meticulous attention to detail and unique handmade embroideries, her pieces exude bohemian chic and elegance.



Heating Up...

WE BRING YOU THE LATEST LOOKS THAT ARE HOTTER THAN THE TEMPERATURE!

PHOTOGRAPHER: AMER MOHAMAD, MODEL: OLGA LEFFERS

START

YOUR FIRST WORD IS...

The most important part of my journey has been **confidence** because it allowed me to command respect in high-pressure situations and lead effectively.

My core **values** are resilience, integrity, and sustainability, and they drive all my personal and professional decisions.

DREAMS
CONFIDENCE
FEMININITY
VALUES
BARRIERS

My **dream** is to one day see a maritime industry where gender diversity is not the exception but the norm.

Femininity in my field has been a source of strength, bringing a unique perspective and nurturing a more cooperative and empathetic workplace.

Overcoming **barriers** has taught me that resilience and determination can turn obstacles into opportunities.

WORDS BY ODELIA MATHEWS

BEAUTY SECRET

"I can't live without Obagi's Professional-C Serum. It's essential for protecting my skin against the harsh marine environment and maintaining a radiant complexion and it is an antioxidant solution."



FASHION SPLURGE

"I have a deep appreciation for Elie Saab and Zubair Murad. A particular favourite is an Elie Saab dress I wore for my family wedding, which is an embodiment of sophistication and grace, and holds a special place in my heart."



SUSTAINABLE LUXURY

"I support Stella McCartney for her dedication to sustainability, particularly in how her fashion line uses eco-friendly materials and promotes ethical production practices."



BY ODELIA MATHEWS

ELEGANT

Explore a realm where history and innovation converge, highlighting the timeless Italian designs of Cassina Furniture. Join Yasmine Zahran, Yusur Al Khalidi, Ahmed Fareed, and Nada Baeshen in Dubai as they showcase unparalleled *style and sophistication*



Furniture: UTRECHT BY GERRIT THOMAS RIETVELD, POST SCRIPTUM BY FORMAFANTASMA, HOME FRAGRANCES BY CASSINA, SAHARA DROP DESIGN CASSINA, ARTWORK by Todd Bienvenu Watersports 2016
Yusur: Dress, Roksanda; Heels, Rene Caovilla; Bag, Magda Butrym
Yasmine: Dress, Elisabetta Franchi; Heels, Santoni; Necklace, Reposi

INTERSECTIONS

Photographer ABDULLA ELMAZ
Stylist JENNIFER KOLOMONI

Furniture: LADY BY MARCO ZANUSO
Nada: Full Look, Louis Vuitton



Furniture: DUDET BY PATRICIA URQUIOLA
Ahmed: Full Look, Loewe

Furniture: LADY BY MARCO ZANUSO
Nada: Dress & Boots, Givenchy; Ring, Marli
Ahmed: Suit & Shoes, Givenchy; Watch, Jaeger LeCoultre

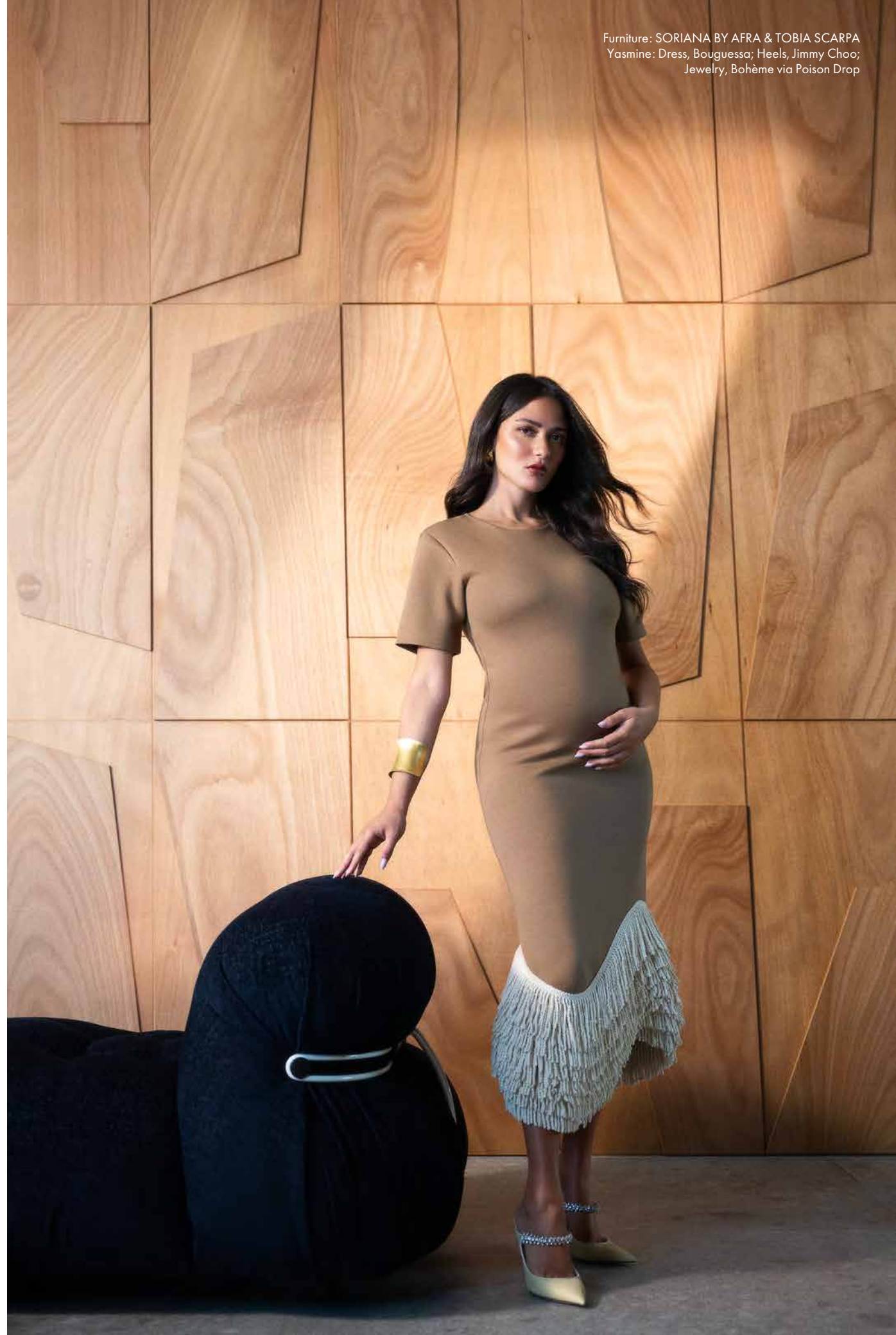


Furniture: MONCLOUD BY PATRICIA URQUIOLA,
FRAME - DECORATIVE CUSHIONS - ROOD
by DESIGN CASSINA Yusr: Jacket & Jeans by
Loewe, Jewelry by Boucheron



PHOTOGRAPHER ABDULLA ELMAZ, STYLIST JENNIFER KOLOMONI, MAKEUP AIDA GLOW, HAIR: SEN, STYLIST ASSISTANT TOORA WASEEM,
MODELS YASMINE ZAHBAN, YUSUR AL KHALIDI, AHMED FAREED, NADA BAESHEN, SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE CASSINA STORE, DUBAI

Furniture: SORIANA BY AFRA & TOBIA SCARPA
Yasmine: Dress, Bouguessa; Heels, Jimmy Choo;
Jewelry, Bohème via Poison Drop



Dress & Jacket, Genny
Sandals, Jacquemus
Tights, Falke



Photographer RAPHAËL HEYMANN
Stylist & Creative Direction FAROUK CHEKOUFI

ICE ICE BABY

Turn up the heat in white-hot cool, where sleek silhouettes and icy hues make a striking statement

Skirt, Genny
Shirt, Fantaisie Militaire
Gloves, Maison Margiela
Sunglasses, Cartier





Dress, Jacquemus
Hat, Maison Virginie Paris
Sunglasses, Gucci



Shirt, Gloves & Skirt, Maison Margiela

Jacket & Skirt, Giada





Dress, Magda Butrym



Dress & Shoes, Loewe
Tights, Falke



T-Shirt, Superoby
Body & Skirt, Giada
Bag, Tod's

PHOTOGRAPHER RAPHAEL HEYMANN, STYLING & CREATIVE DIRECTION FAROUK CHEKOUFI, MODELS ANAIS GARNIER AND MARIE MERRY @PREMIUM MODELS, MAKEUP CORENTIN CHOTARD / LE MENESTREL
@B.AGENCY USING GUERLAIN BEAUTY HAIR, VIDEOGRAPHER DAVIDE COKONA, MANICURE KATRYNAIL, STUDIO USING ESSIE, STYLIST ASSISTANT
KSENIA MALICEVA, PHOTOGRAPHER ASSISTANT FABRICE F PRODUCTION MAISON GRAFF PARIS, LOCATION LE ROYAL MONCEAU: RAFFLES PARIS 37 AV. HOCHÉ, 75008 PARIS



Suit, Moschino
Boots, Arche

Cotton Poplin Blouse, Wool
& Silk Shantung Trousers
Silk Tie, Leather Derby
Diorebel Shoes, Dior
Belt, Kate Cate Milano

Mohair Sweater, Denim Shirt &
Trousers, Leather Loafers, Celine By
Hedi Slimane; Bandana, Vintage

Photographer LOUISE MEYLAN
Creative Director & Stylist LAURA SEGANTI
Fashion Editor ANNE-SOPHIE THOMAS
(ELLE International)

MUSIC LOVER

*From your ears to your wardrobe, this Prefall season
is all about expressing your inner melody*



Cotton Sweatshirt,
Denim Trousers, Belt &
Sunglasses, Gucci; Helmet
& Bandana, Vintage

Cotton Shirt & Leather Trousers, Isabel Marant; Cotton T-Shirt, Dsquared2;
Silver Necklaces, Giovanni Raspini; Leather Belt, Inan Studio



Black Fringed Suede Jacket, White Cotton Tuxedo; Shirt & Black Silk Scarf, Polo Ralph Lauren; Cotton Denim Trousers 501, Levi's; Leather Princessa Belt, Kate Cate Milano



Sustainable Viscose Draped Top & Trousers With Fringes, Stella McCartney; Leather Headphones, Celine By Hedi Slimane; Skull Silver Ring, Giovanni Raspini; Cotton Socks, Ant45 Pembrey Bicolor Leather Loafers, Church's



Leather Jacket, Saint Laurent
by Anthony Vaccarello



Wool Bomber Jacket
With Leather Sleeves &
Denim Trousers Bicolor
(Sustainability Values
Capsule Collection),
Emporio Armani
Pembrey W Leather Loafers,
Church's



Wool & Mohair Sweater & Leather
Trousers, Louis Vuitton



Green Coat in Tweed &
Tweed Hat, Chanel

Top, Trousers & Bike, Fendi; Leather Headphones, Celine By Hedi Slimane; Leather Belt, Kate Cate Milano



Two Piece Suit of Double Twill of Viscose & Red Velvet Stretch Wool with a jacket and High Waisted Bootcut Pants, Hermès; Western Denim Shirt, Polo Ralph Lauren; Cotton T-Shirt, Junya Watanabe Comme Des Garçons; Silver Necklace, Giovanni Raspini; Leather Belt, (Capsule Collection Inanxxsonora) Inan Studio



Cotton Polo Shirt &
Trousers, Miu Miu
Silver Necklace,
Giovanni Raspini
Cotton Socks, Ant45
Leather Loafers, Celine
By Hedi Slimane



PHOTOGRAPHED BY LOUISE MEYLAN, STYLIST LAURA SEGANTI, STYLIST ASSISTANT CECILIA GIOETTI, FASHION EDITOR ANNE-SOPHIE THOMAS (ELLE INTERNATIONAL),
FASHION PRODUCER YANNICK SELVA (ELLE INTERNATIONAL), MAKE-UP & HAIR CYRIL LANOIR @WISE & TALENTED, MODEL AMAELLE GERT @KARIN MODELS

ELLE

beauty

BE SELFIE-READY...
For even more flawless skin, the
Benefit Pore Care Collection
introduces two new amazing
products to its lineup - the WOW
POLISH (a Triple Pore-Exfoliating
Powder) and SHRINK WRAP
(an overnight AHA+PHA pore
treatment)

Ready to Go!

WE HAVE THE SKIN PREPS, HAIR SECRETS AND MAKEUP TIPS TO HELP
YOU LOOK YOUR FRESHEST AS THE TEMPERATURES RISE...

All tied up

Effortless in execution yet achingly cool in style, the slicked-back bun is the ultimate tie-up-and-go for the modern day gal on the run.

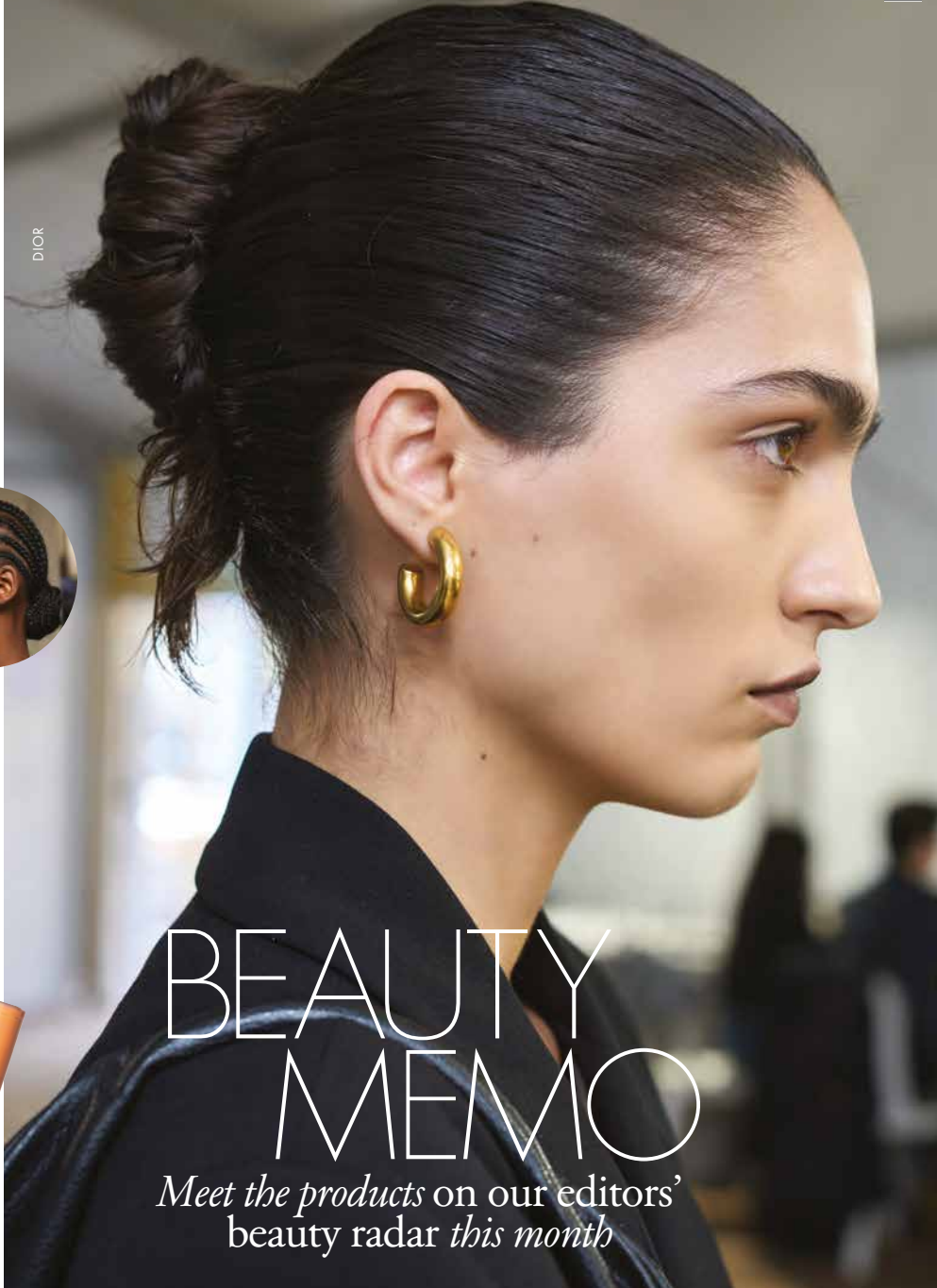


Smooth operators

Tackling everything from fine lines, dark spots and dullness to dark circles, enlarged pores and acne, retinol-based creams are your first-class tickets to getting rid of all of your concerns and then some...



1. THE RETINOL SERUM, AUGUSTINUS BADER 2. HYDRATE & NOURISH AGE DEFENCE RETINOL DAY MOISTURIZER, MZ SKIN 3. RETINOIC NUTRIENT FACE OIL, TATA HARPER 4. RETINOL SKIN-SMOOTHING BODY TREATMENT, PAULA'S CHOICE



BEAUTY MEMO

Meet the products on our editors' beauty radar this month



Endless summer

With its bohemian spirit reminiscent of the Côte d'Azur and its equally vibrant shades of nature, we're crushing hard on Dior's take on beauty for SS'24. Big shoutout to the pastel mint polish – we're sure it'll be gracing the hands of many come beach time.

Sun touched

How do you powder those cheekbones this season? With its lightweight formula and airy finish that harmonizes flawlessly with the complexion, Guerlain's new Terracota Blush is the ultimate purchase for those chasing sunsets this summer.



Eye spy

Inspired by the serene beauty of Sweden's natural landscape, Byredo has given us a limited edition collection of 18 exquisite shades (think a mix of sparkle, shimmer, metallic, and matte finishes) to nail that Scandi cool look with. Wear alone or blend together for the ultimate effect.



Notes on emotion

LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT

Fan of Charlotte Tilbury's cult makeup line? Get ready to join her fragrance fan club as the beauty mogul launches, not one but six, new emotion boosting perfumes that use serious neuroscience to bottle up six universal feelings for whatever mood you are in.

A new update

Your favorite OG setting powder just got a fragrance-free update with Huda Beauty's new Easy Bake Loose Setting Powder – expect the exact 7 shades and airbrush finish, just minus the scent.



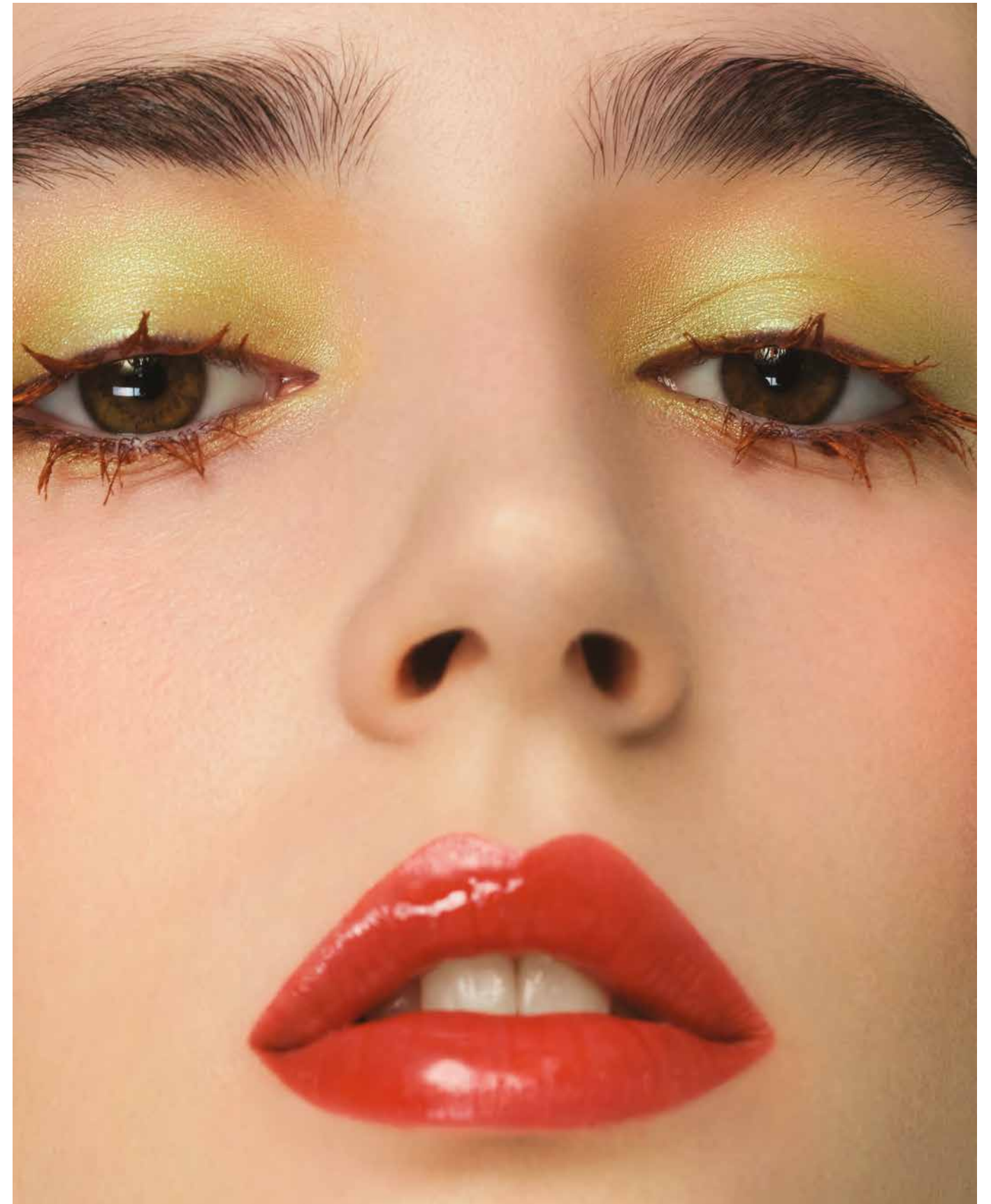
LIFE IN COLOR

Offering an infinite palette of expression,
Chanel's Ombre Essentielle sketches out a new
generation of eyeshadows and a thousand ways
to express *your allure*.

Photographer MANNBUTTE
Creative Director & Stylist JADE CHILTON

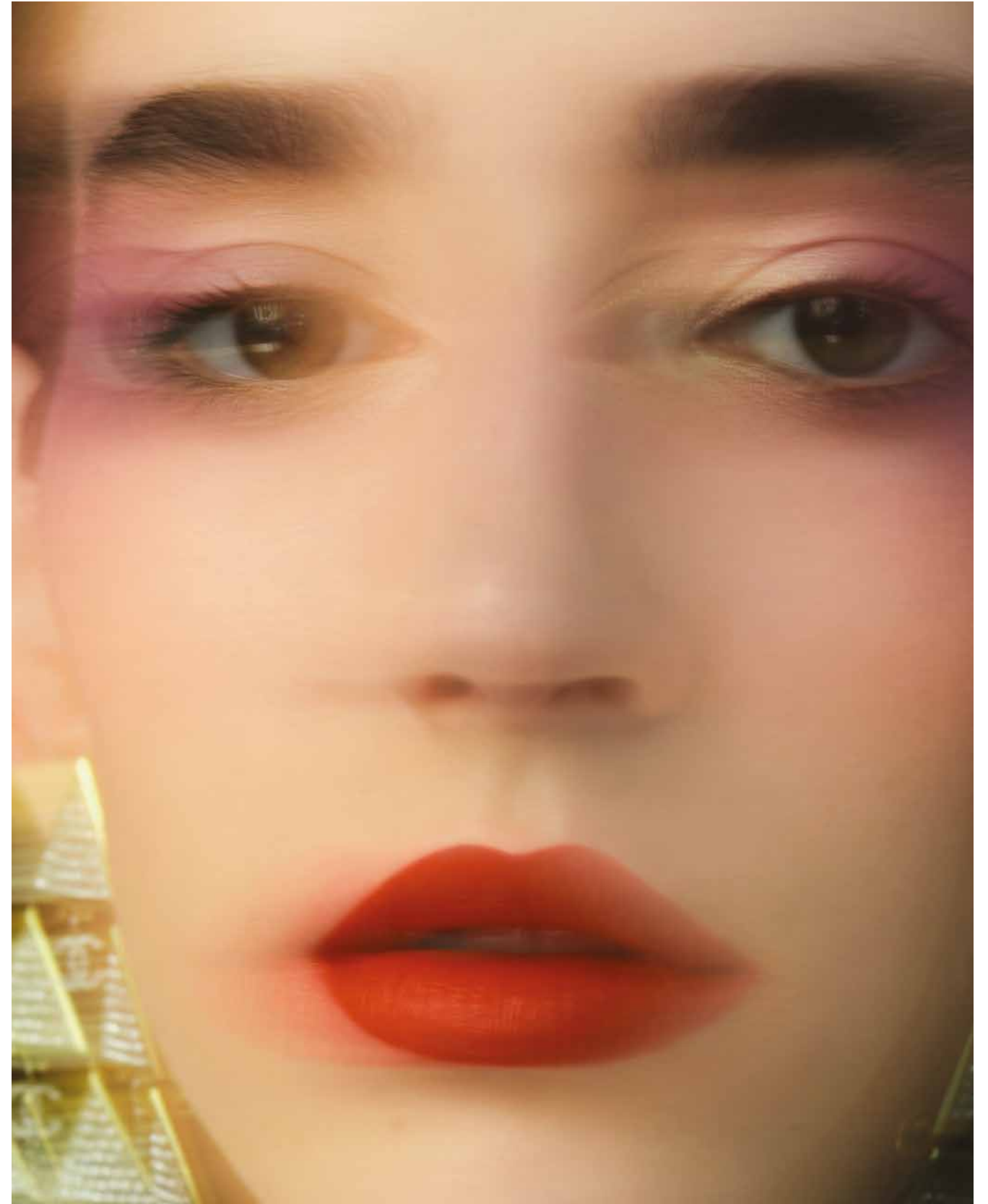
FOR ALL THE LOOKS:
N°1 DE CHANEL REVITALIZING FOUNDATION IN B10
N°1 DE CHANEL LIP AND CHEEK BALM IN 8 ARDENT BRICK

Ombre Essentielle in 224 Blé D'or Antique,
Mascara Noir Allure in 57 Orange Bruni





Ombre Essentielle in 244 Rouge Cuir and 234 Beige Sable, Mascara Noir Allure in 10 Noir



Ombre Essentielle 232 Lilas Poudré, Mascara Noir Allure in 10 Noir

Ombre Essentielle in 232 Lilas Poudré and 244
Rouge Cuir, Mascara Noir Allure in 37 Lilas

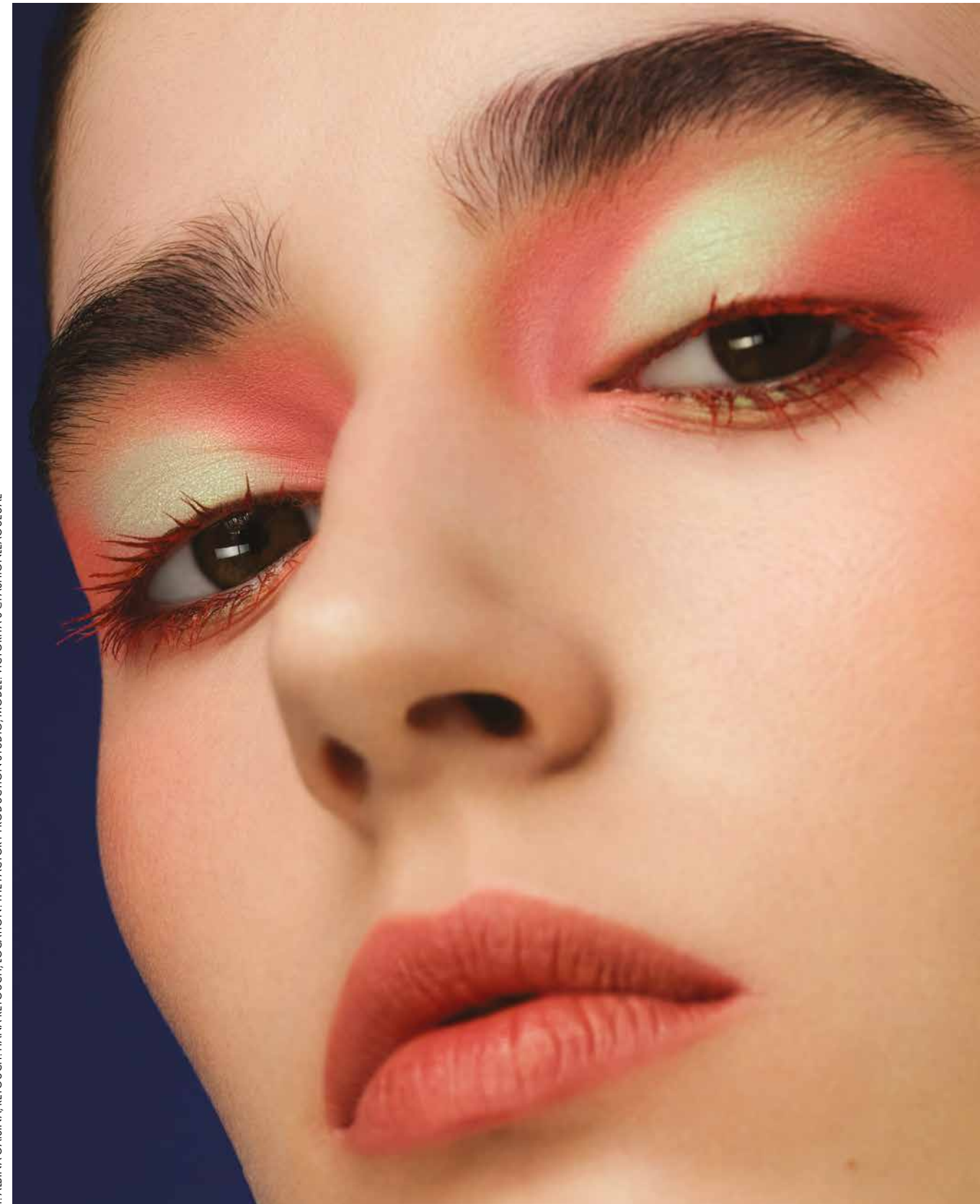


Ombre Essentielle in 226 Rouge Cosmos





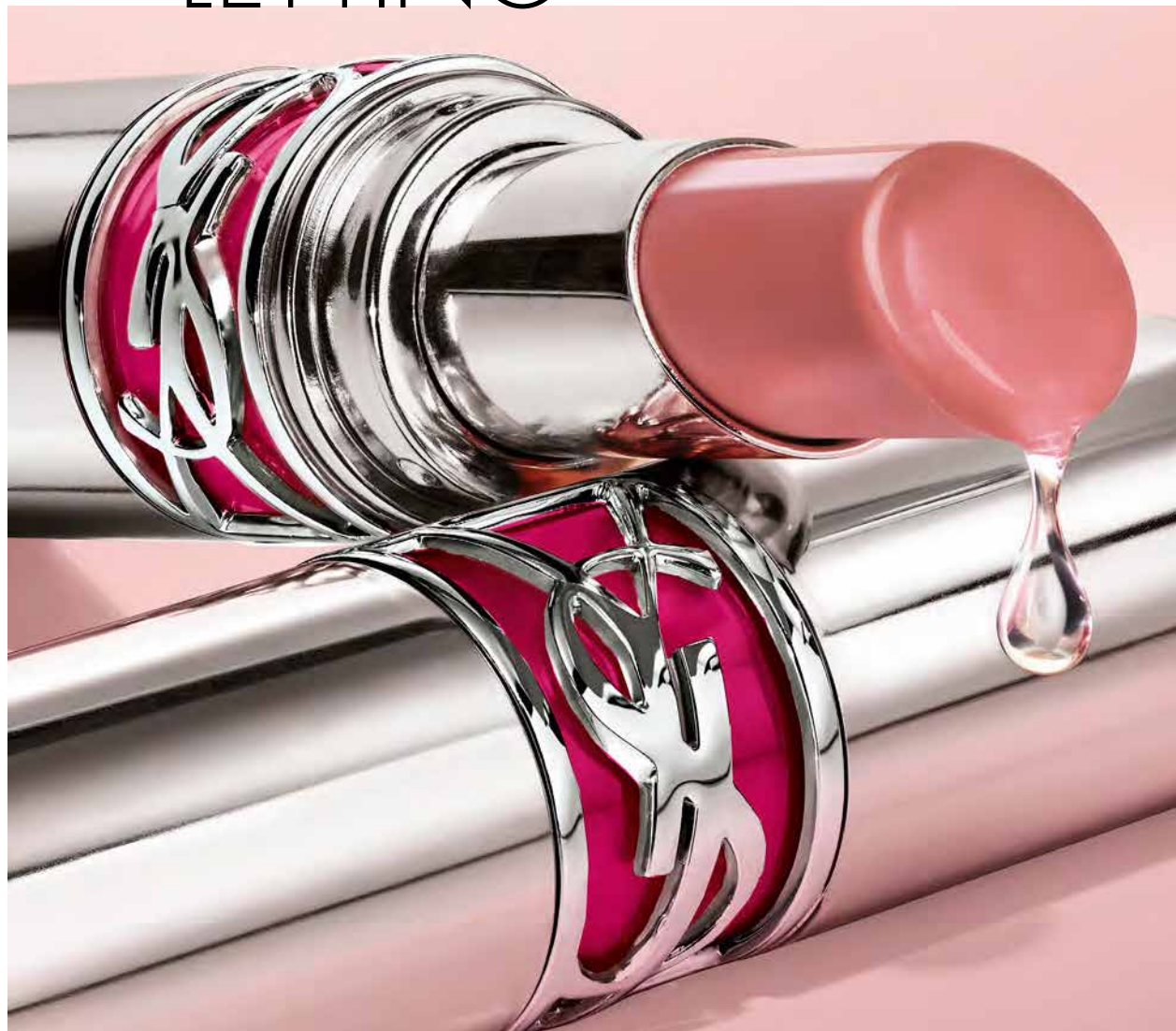
Ombre Essentielle 222 Jade Facetté



PHOTOGRAPHER: MANNBUTTE; CREATIVE DIRECTOR & STYLIST: JADE CHILTON; MAKEUP: MICHEL KIWARKIS; HAIR: IVAN KUZ; LIGHT ASSISTANT: SIMRAN @SENSOSTUDIOS; DIGITECH: ALBINA GAISINA; RÉTOUCH: HANA RETOUCH; LOCATION: THE FACTORY PRODUCTION STUDIO; MODEL: VICTORIYA S @FASHIONLEAGUEJAE

Ombre Essentielle in 228 Rose Charnel and 222 Jade Facetté, Mascara Noir Allure in 47 Rouge Intense

LETTING



LOVE SHINE

YSL's global beauty director Tom Pecheux on the iconic lip collection, collaborating with *Dua Lipa*, and the beauty essentials no woman should be without.



You have been with YSL Beauté since 2017 and worked with many global brands. How has your journey been? My journey has been great. Every brand is different, but I am the same and I believe when a brand asks me to bring my knowledge or my talent – it's completely me. I learnt a lot working with the brand back home in France. It's a brand that I grew up with and have been fascinated by. Paris has been one of the main capitals of fashion for models and celebrities from all over the world come who also come now for its cosmetics. So, for me it's nothing new because it's a continuity of what YSL has already created for the past 80 years. I feel absolutely comfortable with YSL as it has been a great journey.

In a world with high competition, what characterizes the new Love Shine Lip, and what makes it special? I wouldn't say to you it is the best, but Love Shine is the best only if you like it! YSL keeps bringing in new proposals in what we believe is right for the moment. If you are in NY or in Dubai, everything changes quickly and constantly, on the contrary, in France, things change very slowly and we like to build products that last and are not thrown away. I like to believe that is what keeps the YSL spirit alive and makes it part of our culture. The products that we are creating, especially the packaging have been there since the



finishing touch. These are the most essential. What are the main beauty trends? I say "are" because we are seeing so many. There are no more trends according to me. I feel the real trend is you. The trend today is who you want to be and not to follow someone else. Is this the first time you have worked with Dua Lipa? How was the whole experience? It was the first and the best experience working with Dua Lipa. First of all, she is very beautiful and well-educated. I liked working with her because she was very interested with our collaboration. A lot of people don't pay attention to the details, however, Dua was so present, aware, questioning and intrigued by every minor detail. She shared so much of her experience with makeup as well. She was so curious and intelligent. Last question, would you be interested in coming to our region soon? I hope so! Maybe on the way back to my home I may make a stopover.

"A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO THE DETAILS, HOWEVER, DUA WAS SO PRESENT, AWARE, QUESTIONING AND INTRIGUED BY EVERY MINOR DETAIL. SHE SHARED SO MUCH OF HER EXPERIENCE WITH MAKEUP AS WELL. SHE WAS SO CURIOUS AND INTELLIGENT"

beginning. So, we just add more technology to make the product more comfortable. As you mentioned, Covid, masks, etc., women were crazy for lipsticks even during those times and would still wear them under their masks. And so, since women want to wear glossy lipsticks, why not skincare based in it with beautiful oils that nourish your lips as well as give them tint and volume. As a woman who loves to wear makeup every day, I literally have 10 minutes in the morning to apply my beauty products. What are five essential products from YSL for my daily routine to achieve a nice glow? You need a good moisturizing product, because if your skin is bad, no product will look nice on it. A good concealer from YSL. Mascara. Lipstick. And to give a nice finish put a little bit of that lipstick on your cheeks as a



10 OF THE BEST LIP SAVIORS



TOOT BURCH / LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT

SPF-infused and formulated with moisture-inducing ingredients, these tinted sunscreen-lip balm hybrids promise to soothe and protect all year long.



1. BALM DOTCOM IN COCONUT, GLOSSIER
2. ROUGE COCO BAUME IN CORALLINE, CHANEL
3. MOISTUREGLOW™ PLUMPING LIP SERUM, MAKEUP BY MARIO
4. PHYTO-ROUGE SHINE IN 11 SHEER BLOSSOM, SISLEY PARIS
5. LIP BUTTER BALM FOR HYDRATION & SHINE IN PINK SUGAR, SUMMER FRIDAYS
6. HYDRATING SHEER LIP BALM SPF 30 IN DREAM, MD SOLAR SCIENCES
7. DIOR ADDICT LIP GLOW IN BERRY, DIOR BEAUTY
8. TINTED LIP BALM IN ROSE, BYREDO
9. LIP GLOWY BALM IN CORAL, LANEIGE
10. AFTERGLOW LIP BALM IN ORGASM, NARS



ELLE

culture

UPWARDS & ONWARDS. We speak to Rasha Gebran, the Director of A.D.D Consultant, about the recently finished Bassam Freiha Art Foundation, and what's ahead.

New Horizons...

THE LATEST IN MOVIES, MUSIC, BOOKS AND PODCASTS + TWO WOMEN SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

@BASSAM FREIHA ART FOUNDATION
VICTOR FURTUNA

Taking on the reigns of a family-owned business comes with its fair share of responsibility. From scaling upwards, holding on to inherited values, and embracing change, innovation and new trends – there’s plenty to keep up, and Rasha Gebran has her finger on the pulse of change. As the Director of A.D.D Consultant, which her father Chaouki Gebran founded in 1981, she’s recently finished the Bassam Freiha Art Foundation, and the Royal Stables, which are the latest gems in her crown. “My philosophy of design is centered on simplicity, timelessness, and elegance,” she explains, detailing how she merges functionality with contemporary design codes. “I believe in creating spaces that are both aesthetically pleasing and functional, emphasizing clean lines and lasting designs.”

Striving to create an environment that is inviting and contemporary, Rasha is also keen to ensure that they remain relevant to the times, eventually becoming icons of design. Learning from her father, who built the family-owned architectural design house over fifty years, she remains committed to the future, innovating along the way, without letting go of values. “From my father I have inherited many core values that guide my work today. His humbleness, loyalty to clients, and dedication to delivering projects to the client’s satisfaction have profoundly shaped my approach,” she shares.

Passionate about building an inclusive community and incorporating this into her design practice, Rasha’s list of projects includes residential and commercial properties, as well religious institutions and places for those with special needs. “My hands-on approach guarantees that every detail reflects our commitment to quality and client satisfaction. Above all, I aim to uphold and build upon the reputation of our family business through persistent and dedicated service in every project we undertake,” she says.

What’s your secret to success? My secret to success is being disciplined about how I allocate my time, making sure to set aside dedicated periods for both work and family. This helps me stay productive while ensuring I don’t miss out on important family moments. It’s about being present in whatever I am doing, whether it’s meeting a client deadline or spending time with my loved ones.



Left: Rasha Gebran and her father Chaouki Gebran



FORGING AHEAD

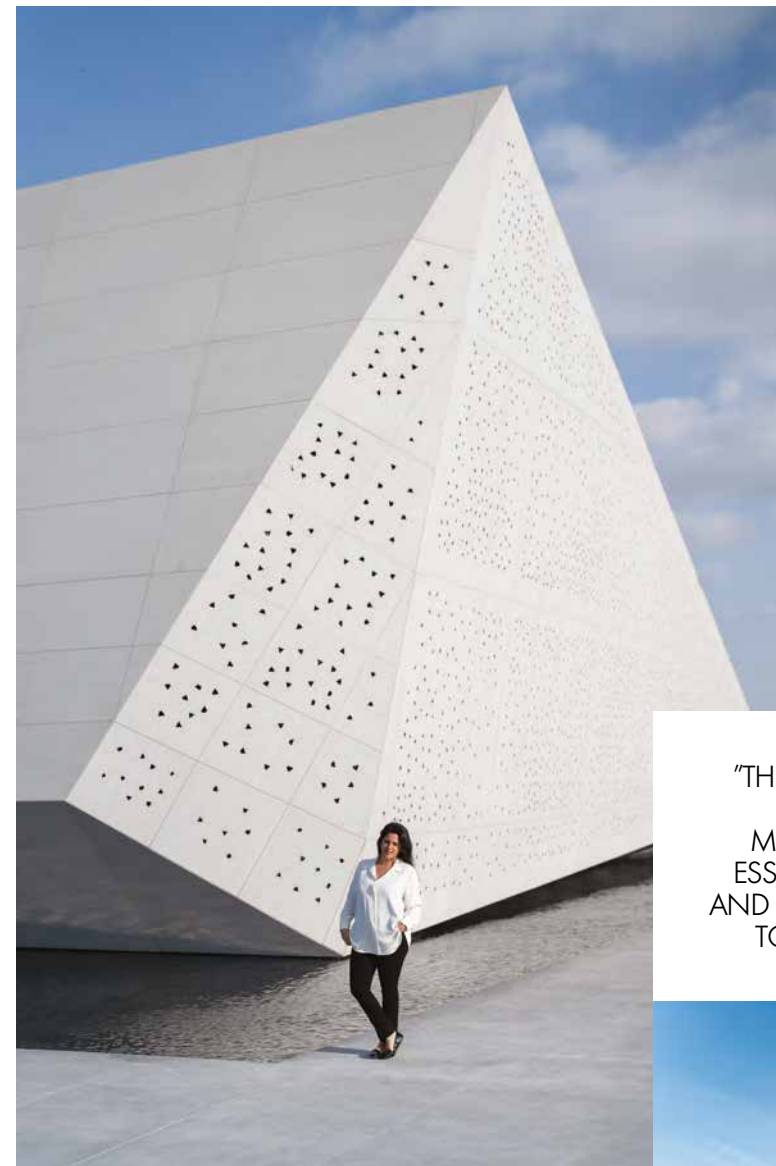
Rasha Gebran is taking her family legacy forward, building on the values inherited from her father, the founder of A.D.D Consultant. She gives us an insight into her world, the values she’s inherited, and her secrets to success

When it comes to religious projects, what elements matter the most? Several key elements are paramount to ensure that the space resonates with its spiritual and functional purposes; respect for tradition and symbolism is crucial. This can include specific architectural features, materials, or spatial arrangements that hold religious significance. Creating a sense of reverence and peace within a religious space should ideally evoke a feeling of sanctity and tranquility, allowing visitors to feel a separation from the everyday world. This is often achieved through the use of light, space, and materials that enhance the spiritual experience.

What changes would you like to see taking place in the region,

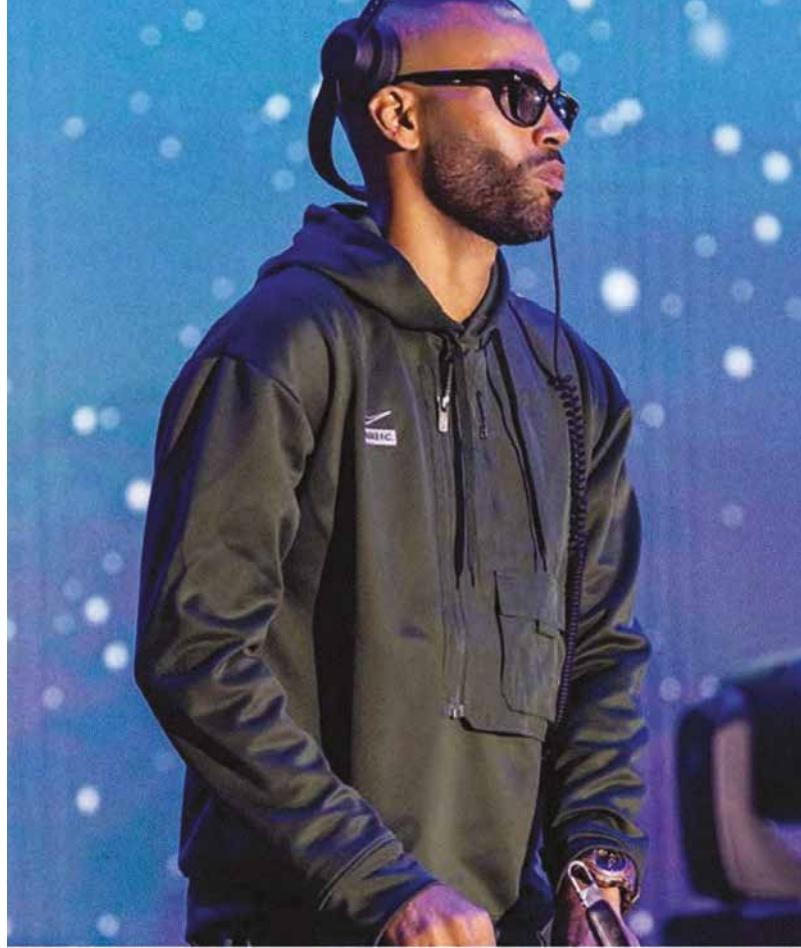
in terms of design and architecture that responds to people with determination? I’m encouraged by the significant changes and contributions already made in this region to improve accessibility. Integrated Technology is something that we can work on further. Leveraging technology can greatly enhance accessibility. Smart technologies like voice-activated systems, customizable lighting and temperature controls, and interactive signage can make spaces more navigable. Regular updates to building codes and regulations to reflect the latest in accessibility research and technology will ensure that new buildings and renovations meet the highest standards of accessibility. **When it comes to health and wellbeing, what are the top three things you never skip?** The three things would be; exercise, eating well, and effective time management. These practices are essential for sustaining my energy and focus, allowing me to try my best to push myself in all areas of life.

Could you share three beauty secrets that you follow for inner and outer beauty? I focus on maintaining a balanced lifestyle that supports my well-being. This includes eating a nutritious diet, staying hydrated, getting enough sleep, and managing stress. I keep my beauty routine simple and avoid heavy makeup or dramatic changes.



“THE THREE THINGS WOULD BE; EXERCISE, EATING WELL, AND EFFECTIVE TIME MANAGEMENT. THESE PRACTICES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR SUSTAINING MY ENERGY AND FOCUS, ALLOWING ME TO TRY MY BEST TO PUSH MYSELF IN ALL AREAS OF LIFE”





Play

**YA ABYAD YA ESWED
(2024 EDIT) BY DJ
KABOO**

One of the most well-rounded DJs on the Middle East scene today, Dj Kaboo (also known as the Arab Trap King) is set to drop three tracks in the coming month – the first an electronic remix for the Egyptian iconic band CairoKee titled DJ KABOO - Ya Abyad Ya Eswed (2024 Edit), a second track and original called “El Maghreb” which mixes oriental Arabic beats with an electronic drum and bass touch, and a third called “Belil,” which is sampled for the famous Sudanese song “Al-Leila Belil” and that has a personal electronic touch to it.



See

DRAWING TIME: DUETS

Taking place at Al Mureijah Art Space, this exhibition showcases rare works from the Sharjah Art Foundation Collection exploring the theme of pairs and doubles in drawing. Curated by Dr. Omar Kholeif and featuring pieces by 15 artists, it invites visitors to explore the rich history and potential of drawing as an artistic practice.

COMPILED BY DANA ORAIBI



WATCH SEE PLAY

With *calendars a buzzing*, these are the noteworthy happenings *causing a buzz at the moment*

Watch

THE 2024 MET GALA

It's time to bring out the popcorn for May 6th as fashion's favorite event of the year hits our TV screens. This year's theme, "Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion," will showcase 250 rare pieces from the Costume Institute's collection and with a dress code inspired by J.G. Ballard's short story "The Garden of Time" expect to see flora and fauna galore hit the famed Met steps.



Follow

LOOKING TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR WELLBEING? THESE 3 WILL SHOW YOU HOW



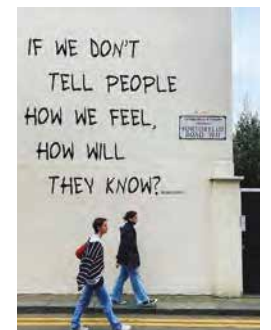
DR. KHALED GHATTASS
@Dr.khaledghattass

With a passion for diverse topics like psychology, philosophy, and art, Dr. Khaled uses witty and engaging content on Facebook and YouTube to explore social dilemmas through philosophical narratives.



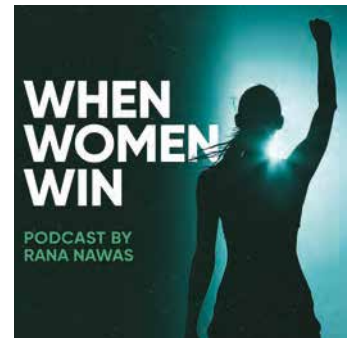
RHEA JACOBS
@Tberjacobs

With her namesake wellness brand Rhé, she created a safe and empowered space for the busy individual of today with the vision to inspire and empower the community to make selfcare a genderless and ageless household practice



YALLA.LETS.HEAL
@Yalla.lets.heal

Running until March 3rd, the historical neighborhood of Old Dubai comes to life thanks to an array of aspiring UAE and regional talents who take it over with their art installations, film screenings, music, panels and more.



Listen

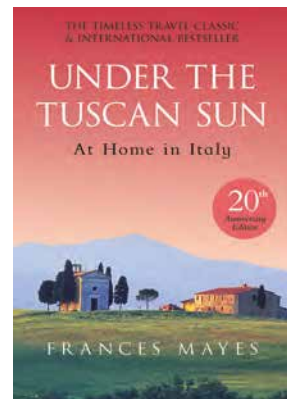
WHEN WOMEN WIN

With listeners in over 181 countries worldwide, this groundbreaking podcast hosted by Rana Nawas sees her interview strong female personalities about the practical tools and strategies used by these remarkable women to achieve success in their personal and professional lives. Rana's inquisitiveness and conversational ease make each episode both effortless and stimulating. Guests include Kristalina Georgieva, Bozoma Saint John, Alex Hirschi (Supercar Blondie), Hala Gorani, and Dr. Nadine Hachache-Haram, among others.

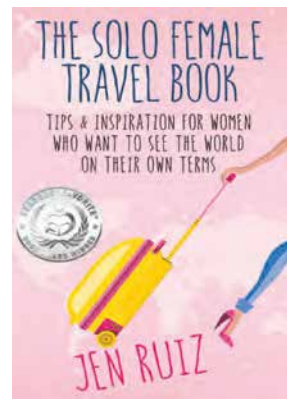


READ

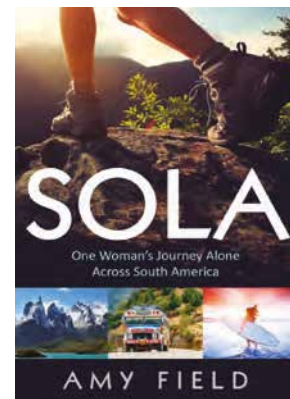
In a time where wanderlust beckons and the desire for adventure knows no bounds, solo travel has emerged as a liberating pursuit. Here are 4 books that celebrate that wonderful spirit of independent exploration and self-discovery.



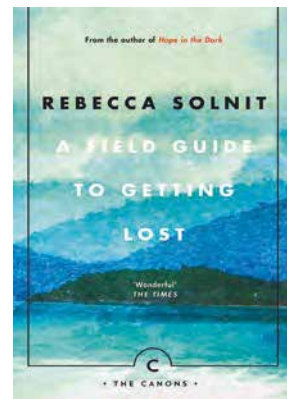
UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN
by Frances Mayes
A classic that has inspired generations to embark on their own journeys, whether it's traveling to a foreign country in search of self-discovery, savoring the book's delightful seasonal recipes, or simply being transported by Mayes's evocative prose. Join her as she invites readers into the heart of Tuscany, where every page is infused with the sights, sounds, and flavors of this enchanting region.



THE SOLO FEMALE TRAVEL BOOK
by Jen Ruiz
A seasoned solo traveler and bestselling author, Jen Ruiz shares her insights and adventures in this captivating guide. From preparing for your first solo trip to choosing the right destination, packing light, and making friends abroad, Jen's tips and anecdotes will inspire and empower aspiring female adventurers. With a blend of practical advice and heartfelt and storytelling, "The Solo Female Travel Book" is a must-read for anyone seeking to explore the world on their own terms.



SOLA
by Amy Field
Join the author on a transformative journey through South America in this captivating memoir. From encounters with Panpipe-playing Zen masters to nighttime motorboat rides through the jungle, Sola chronicles the author's adventures and introspections as she navigates unfamiliar landscapes and cultures. With humor, insight, and a touch of whimsy, this book invites readers to embrace the unexpected and discover the beauty of solo exploration.



A FIELD GUIDE TO GETTING LOST
by Rebecca Solnit
In this captivating collection of autobiographical essays, Rebecca Solnit delves into the themes of uncertainty, trust, loss, and desire through her personal experiences. From navigating wilderness to traversing cities, Solnit explores the stories we use to find ourselves or lose ourselves in the world. With poetic prose and introspective narratives, this book offers a compelling exploration of the human experience.

COMPILED BY DANA ORABI



ELLE

lifestyle

MAGICALLY BEAUTIFUL... A special look at the newly opened Disneyland Hotel in Paris.

Around the World...

...AND BACK AGAIN! THE LATEST EXCITING DESTINATIONS FROM THE NETHERLANDS TO PARIS AND JAPAN – AND THEN BACK AGAIN. PLUS, A TASTE OF ITALY IN YOUR HOME.

THE LOBBY AT THE DISNEYLAND HOTEL IN PARIS

Disney Royalty:

UNVEILING THE NEW DISNEYLAND® PARIS

The grand reveal of the revamped and reimagined *Disneyland Paris* is a treat for families, including adults and children of all ages. With exciting renovations now open for everyone to experience, the action and adventure come coupled with royal treatment that transports you down memory lane to relive your childhood with characters that spring to life for a thoroughly immersive experience. Here's the lowdown and everything you need to know.

As Disneyland Paris opened its doors to the world's first five-star hotel dedicated to Disney royalty, ELLE Arabia enjoyed exploring this landmark hotel and its latest attractions. Featuring a magical blend of service, excellence, and immersive storytelling across seven distinct Disney hotels, the site offers 5,700 rooms and suites for visitors. Paying homage to royal Disney stories and celebrated European landmarks, several new attractions are available for people of all ages to enjoy. Ideal for creating magical memories with family, friends, and loved ones, it is the perfect destination for an escape to relive your childhood. For those seeking more insights about the hotel, Story Keepers are on hand to guide guests through all the incredible details and hidden gems.

THE GRAND ENTRANCE

From the grand entrance where a royal greeter makes you feel like true royalty, to the visual feast of the monumental chandelier that reminds you of Sleeping Beauty's Castle, everything is tailored for a feast of sights, sounds, and tastes. To create the perfect welcome ambiance filled with dreams, hope, love and cheer, guests are greeted by a surprise performance by La Troupe Royal Disney. Accompanied by a Disney Princess such as Cinderella, Rapunzel or Jasmine, plenty of picture opportunities arise. As butterflies begin to rise up within your belly and you get ready to embrace whatever comes next.

Top: ROYAL BANQUET
Below: DISNEYLAND HOTEL





PRINCELY SUITE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

THE SIGNATURE SUITES

Expect to be spoiled for choice when selecting your accommodation. The 16 signature suites are designed to create an immersive experience, featuring elements inspired by Disney classics. Every detail in the suites is crafted with meticulous attention by talented craftsmen to ensure they match animated references. Guests can pamper themselves with deluxe products and amenities such as walk-in closets and spacious spa bathtubs.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SIGNATURE SUITES

Cinderella, Frozen, Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, and Beauty and the Best – each of the sixteen signature suites pay homage to the Disney classics. Some take you back to medieval times with stone walls, columns and arches, while others feature Cinderella's famous glass slipper that magically light ups or the mystical Enchanted Rose from Beauty and the Beast that illuminates the room.

THE EXPERIENCE

Apart from the signature suites, Disneyland Hotel offers 478 rooms and suites each with revamped interiors reflecting the magic of Disney stories through art-work, décor accents, personalized head support and pillows. Expect surprises such as Aladdin's magic lamp woven into the carpet, or an illuminated animated canopy above the bed for that fairy-tale feel, complete with powdery color tones and plush duvets.



CASTLE CLUB



CINDERELLA SIGNATURE SUITE

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE AT AVENGERS CAMPUS

One of the most exciting additions is the Marvel Avengers Campus in Walt Disney Studios Park. This thrilling land transports you directly into the heart of the Marvel Universe. Suit up alongside your favorite superheroes at the interactive WEB (Worldwide Engineering Brigade) workshop, where you can design your own Spider-Tech and put your skills to the test. But the action doesn't stop there! Buckle up for a high-speed adventure on the reimagined Rock 'n' Roller Coaster Starring Iron Man. This classic attraction gets a supercharged upgrade, blasting you through a thrilling escapade with Iron Man and the Avengers. Don't miss your chance to meet iconic heroes like Captain America, Black Widow, and Thor throughout the day, making your visit truly unforgettable.

A FROZEN FAIRY-TALE COMES TO LIFE:

The highly anticipated arrival of a whole new Frozen-themed land at Walt Disney Studios Park is soon to open. Meanwhile the breath-taking Royal Frozen Suite is the hotel's grandest and most immersive experience, transporting guests to Queen Elsa's Ice Palace atop the North Mountain. With designs and motifs characteristic of Arendelle and a window overlooking an all-year-long magically glittering snowflake, this suite offers an enthralling experience. The ice chandelier in silver and blue is a star attraction, and the balcony overlooking Disneyland Park and the iconic Sleeping Beauty Castle is a sight not to be missed.

ROYAL KIDS CLUB



LATABLE DE LUMIERE

WHAT TO DO

Attractions & Highlights:

- The Royal Kids Club is designed as a magical library where children become a part of their favorite Disney royal stories. Dedicated cast members welcome the children as they take part in exciting interactive and augmented reality experiences.
- Personalized Royal Styling with make-up, hair, costumes, and accessories and a professional portrait session.
- The first ever Disneyland Hotel Spa by Clarins with a kid-friendly pool, padding pool, and spa treatments suitable for ages six and above.
- The Royal Banquet specially tailored for children with curated

menus inspired by Disney characters. Guests get a chance to meet and dine with Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, and their friends.

- The Castle Club, which is an exclusive hotel within the hotel, boasts of a private elevator and a tailored personalized experience.

When to Visit:

- The most suitable months to visit Disneyland Paris are May, November and January, preferably during the week.
- If you want to avoid crowds, then the low season is the best time to visit.
- If you don't mind the crowds and want to enjoy the summer weather, then the summer months and school holidays are a good option.

What's To Know:

- Disneyland Paris is just 32 kilometers from Paris. Choose between the bus, taxi, train or official shuttles to enjoy a day visit or a several nights stay.
- Guests enjoy gold-standard personalized services along with existing Disney Hotels benefits such as early access to the Disney Parks (Extra Magic Time)
- The royal experience at Disneyland Hotel also comes with premium and personalized room service options available 24/7
- Make sure to book prior to your arrival with reservations at Disneylandparis.com





BANYAN TREE, DUBAI

A modern beach sanctuary and luxury oasis hideaway in the city

THE LOWDOWN

Set amidst the tranquil shores of Bluewaters on 500 meters of pristine, private beachfront overlooking the Arabian Gulf and the iconic Ain Dubai in the backdrop, this modern day oasis is the ultimate escape from the hustle and bustle of the city. This sprawling jasmine-scented hotel oozes Asian flair with contemporary design blending natural materials with clean lines, an aesthetic that carries from the airy reception to the bright and spacious rooms. Unwind in the luxurious marble bathrooms with their inviting oval bathtubs then head out onto the private balconies and take in the tranquil urban cityscapes and endless ocean horizons beyond.

And for the ultimate escape, a trip to the spa is a treat for the senses, offering a holistic approach to physical, mental, and spiritual renewal through traditional Asian wellbeing and healing therapies.

GOOD EATS

Treat your palate to unparalleled culinary experiences and captivating entertainment throughout your stay in one of the five culinary outlets spanning multiple cuisines and chic beachfront bars and lounges. A must though is Demon Duck By Alvin Leung, where the celebrity chef offers a unique and creative twist on Chinese & Pan-Asian classics.

LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT



SERENITY OCEANVIEW GUESTROOM KING



TOCHA TERRACE



HARMONY, BEDROOM OCEANFRONT PRESIDENTIAL SUITE, LIVINGROOM



HARMONY, BEDROOM OCEANFRONT PRESIDENTIAL SUITE, MASTERBEDROOM, BATHROOM



ALBERTA FERRETTI

WHAT TO PACK



RÉGIME DES FLEURS NITESURF NEROLI Eau de Parfum



RÉGIME DES FLEURS

ALAÏA



SAINT LAURENT



BEN-AMUN

CALA DE LA CRUZ



CONSERVATORIUM, AMSTERDAM



Historic grandeur meets urban elegance bang in the middle of the Museum Quarter

THE LOW DOWN

Once a 19th-century landmark and now a 21st-century architectural masterclass, Conservatorium is a sight to behold. Housed in what was once a bank and then many years later the Sweelinck music conservatory, this chic dwelling's location doesn't get any more spot on than this – the Van Gogh Museum, Rijksmuseum and Stedelijk stand all on one side and then the most fashionable shopping streets can be found dazzling across from the other. The building has been both sympathetically restored and lovingly modernized, conceived first by the renowned Dutch architect Daniel Knuttel and then transformed by award-winning Milan-based designer and architect Piero Lissoni who has reincarnated this spectacular structure with contemporary updates such as clean lines, agnostic glasswork, and refined simplicity. It all starts with the glass-enclosed lobby, where cosmopolitan sophisticates gather on the daily catching the rays from beneath the transparent rooftop. Elsewhere Lissoni's clean lines make it up the rooms, where demure shades of beige, grey and brown give an easy and relaxed feel to the spacious dwellings. Many boast brilliant city views and if you've booked a top tier suite, you'll be treated to a terrace where you can catch the best sunsets in Amsterdam. Every room has a rainfall shower (some come with bathtubs as well), espresso machines and state of the art multimedia systems to enjoy your own music on.

GOOD EATS

All-day Mediterranean fare is served by big-hitting Dutch Chef Schilo at Barbounia, which also operates as the breakfast hub for hotel guests in the morning. Hit the buffet or pick from a well-prepared à la carte

menu – both will give you just the right amount of fuel to get your engines revving for exploring the capital. Nights are for Taiko, Chef Schilo's second flagship, where showstopping East Asian dishes get a considerable twist. Don't forget to order the Kobe-style wagyu beef and Szechuan-peppered lobster, musts for anyone booked at the ultra-chic spot. Wined and dined? Settle for a night cap at the buzzing Taiko Bar next door, where creative cocktails and even better music will give the day the perfect sendoff.

SPA SITUATION

Encompassing an expansive area of 1,000 square meters, Akasha Holistic Wellbeing emerges as an urban sanctuary nestled in the bustling heart of Amsterdam's iconic Museum Square, proudly claiming the title of the city's largest spa. Derived from Sanskrit, "Akasha" symbolizes the fundamental vision of seamlessly integrating the four elemental forces of nature: earth, water, fire, and air. Earth within the serenity of Akasha, a lounge bar offers a selection of nourishing food, while Water is a stunning 18m/60ft lap pool, steam room, sauna and Jacuzzi form an oasis at the center of the spa. There is a private Hammam for purifying scrubs and massages and a Vichy shower for cleansing hydrotherapy rituals. Akasha also boasts Amsterdam's first Watsu pool for tailored hydro-treatments. Fire is the gym where fitness is the name of the game and adrenaline levels are pumping. And finally, you have Air, the private studios dedicated to one-on-one sessions or personalized classes for yoga, Pilates, tai-chi and meditation.



LOUIS VUITTON



COURRÈGES

WHAT TO PACK



LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT

POSSE

STAUD

WHAT TO PACK

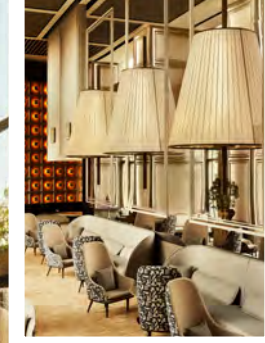
SAINT LAURENT

BEN-AMUN

EMILI

THE ROW





Janu Tokyo, Japan

Tokyo's latest luxe address, *Janu Tokyo* has both tranquil comfort and a buzzy culinary scene covered.



JACQUEMUS

THE LOWDOWN

The newly opened Janu is Tokyo's latest luxe address marrying serene and sharply contemporary interiors with a host of restaurants that have the city's stylish set scrambling for reservations at. The debut luxury hotel from revered sibling-brand, Aman, Janu (meaning 'soul' in Sanskrit) is nestled in the trendy Azabudai Hills surrounded by luxury boutiques, and houses 122 rooms and suites, as well as eight dining venues. Spacious rooms boasting floor-to-ceiling windows and balconies, which are rare in the space-limited city, overlook the iconic Tokyo Tower and modern minimalist interiors by Jean Michel Gathy of Denniston create a calming, soulful ambience throughout the property. But it's the attention to detail that sets Janu apart from its peers - the Skin111 eye masks on the pillows at turn down, the organic linen pajamas laid out on the bed, and the bespoke black tea blend in every room - it's quiet luxury at its very best.

FASHIONABLE FARE

For a city that's hardly short of five-star dining destinations, Janu's social scene brings an exciting buzz with eight captivating restaurants to engage your taste buds at. For a traditional omakase



WHAT TO PACK

OSCAR DE LA RENTA



BOTTEGA VENETA



HERMÈS



LOEWE IBIZA



LIÉ STUDIO



CHLOÉ

experience in a modern, intimate setting, head to Ligura where the chef reinterprets traditional Esomae sushi for a handful of tables, or the place to be seen is Mercato, a lively Italian restaurant where a giant olive tree sits center stage surrounded by open kitchen counters serving homemade pastas, fresh fish and seafood, and European charcuterie and cheeses. Chinese restaurant, Hu Jing offers traditional Cantonese specialties including Peking duck, Wagyu fillet and dim sums in a dimly lit seductive setting, good for groups wanting to indulge.

THE SPA

While you may be checking in to wine and dine, Janu's four-floor, 4,000 sqm spa and wellness center is unprecedented in a city that's tight for space. Janu has one of Tokyo's biggest gyms with an impressive lineup of equipment and a program of classes (yoga, spinning and circuit training) ran by industry experts for guests to join each day. There's also a stunning indoor 25-meter lap pool just asking for a photo opportunity, but head to the spa, where you'll find a separate spa lounge of thermal spring water, cold and hot plunge pools, as well as a hammam. You'll leave revived and renewed, ready to take on Tokyo.

WORDS BY KATE HAZELL

Shangri-La Hotel, at the Shard, London

A Paradise in the Clouds in the Center of the City



NIGHT SHOT FROM THE HOTEL



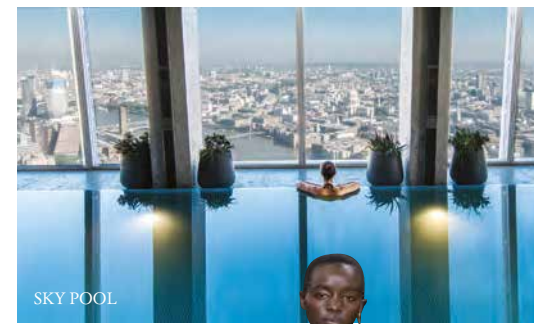
EMPORIO ARMANI



TING RESTAURANT



PREMIER CITY VIEW KING



SKY POOL

THE LOWDOWN

Standing as Western Europe's tallest building, The Shard integrates London's historical essence with pioneering architecture. Designed by Renzo Piano, it's a symbol of the city's innovative spirit and sustainable design, featuring natural ventilation and energy-efficient glazing. Upon entry, we are greeted with striking artworks and a crystal chandelier-lit lobby, leading to a sky lobby that beautifully blends Eastern and Western design against London's iconic skyline. Located in the vibrant London Bridge area, the hotel is steps away from the city's rich history and contemporary culture. London's famous landmarks, bustling markets, and renowned art galleries are easily accessible, making it the perfect base for exploring.

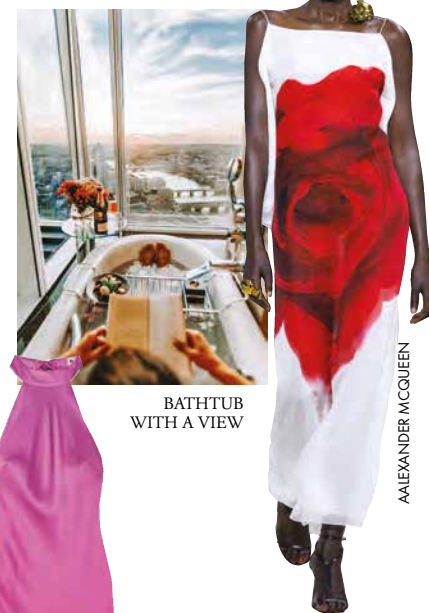
AN ELEVATED STAY

Occupying floors 34 to 52 of The Shard, there are 202 rooms and suites with breathtaking views, signature dining experiences, an infinity pool, and a 24-hour gym, all situated high above London's bustling streets. The hotel's accommodations range from intimate guestrooms to lavish Signature Suites, all featuring floor-to-ceiling windows that frame stunning cityscapes. The hotel's three Signature Suites - the Westminster Suite,

London Suite, and the Shangri-La Suite - provide a serene ambience with luxurious amenities, including automatic climate control, augmented reality features, and bespoke furniture.

FOOD & MOOD

Three distinct culinary venues - TNG, GNG, and BAR 31 - offer locally-sourced British cuisine with Asian nuances and the highest bar in London for sunset cocktails. The hotel's wellness offerings are equally impressive, featuring a gym with panoramic views, an exclusive infinity Sky Pool, and personalized spa treatments. Yoga in the Clouds and wellness programs cater to the holistic needs of every guest, ensuring a rejuvenating stay.



ALEXANDER MCQUEEN

BATHTUB WITH A VIEW

WHAT TO PACK



FENDI EYEWEAR

RIXO



GUCCI



From Japan with Love

The Les Cerisiers collection by Dior Maison revisits the past while staying firmly rooted in the present. Inspired by the 1953 Jardin japonais ensemble, this line brings a touch of Japan's serene beauty to everyday items, from tableware to linen, with delicate blossoms.

© VALENTIN ABAD IMAGES

HOME & AWAY



HORIZON 55 ELYSEE PALACE MONOGRAM



SIDE TRUNK ELYSEE PALACE HOTEL MONOGRAM.

CARRE 90 TRUNKS DUNE

Take Flight!

Travel style soars to new heights with Louis Vuitton's fun Flight Mode collection.

High Kicks

It's the the season to explore; do just that in comfort and in ultimate style.



BALENCIAGA



LOEWE + PAULA'S IBIZA



ROGER VIVIER

When in Milan...

Gucci's latest exhibition in Rome, Design Ancora, breathes new life into five Italian design classics under the guidance of Creative Director Sabato De Sarno and curator Michela Pelizzari. Hosted at their flagship store, this exhibit by architect Guillermo Santomà transforms iconic pieces into a visual dialogue between past and future. These reinvented treasures are also available online.



GUCCI DESIGN ANCORA

Oh la la, La Croisette

Just in time for the festival and for Summer, Fendi opened its newest boutique in Cannes, where luxury meets the laid-back elegance of the French Riviera, spread over two levels with a VIP room and seaside views from the terrace.



© FABREN ECOCHARD FOR LA NOSTRA ITALIA EDITIONS SOLAR, PARIS

Photographed and styled by GERALDINE MARTENS & MARION CHIBRARD-BURDY
 Recipes by LUANA & ALESSANDRO BELMONDO
 Compiled by ELISE WEBBER & EVELYN SHARP
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A TAVOLA IN



From Rome and Sicily to Capalbio and Venice, Luana and Alessandro Belmondo, mother and son, invite you on a culinary journey in their first book ("La nostra Italia" Solar Editions), written as a family duo. Inspired by these four regions dear to their heart, they share some of the most emblematic recipes such as pincia, coccoli, gnudi or panzanella. Buon appetito!

PASTA CACIO E PEPE DI ROMA

"Only the Romans know the tricks of the trade..." Luana

SERVES 4 - PREPARATION TIME 5 min - COOKING TIME Follow pasta cooking time - **INGREDIENTS:** 2 to 3 tbsp. peppercorns - 320g spaghetti - 200g grated pecorino cheese - Salt

1. Coarsely chop the pepper. Cook the pasta in a pan of boiling salted water. Drain when al dente. **2.** Dry fry the pepper in a frying pan, then add half a ladle of pasta water. Allow most of the liquid to evaporate. Place the pecorino cheese in a bowl, pour in a ladleful of pasta cooking water and whisk until creamy. **3.** Pour the pasta into the pan with the pepper and add the pecorino cream. Mix well. If necessary, add more pasta water to dilute. **4.** Serve with grated pecorino and cracked pepper. Enjoy immediately.

CHEF'S TIP
ENJOY IT AS IT IS,
LET THE PEPPER
AND PECORINO
LINE YOUR
MOUTH!

© GERALDINE MARTENS FOR "LA NOSTRA ITALIA" BY LUANA & ALESSANDRO BELMONDO, SOLAR EDITIONS

CHEF'S TIP
GARNISH WITH
SMOKED SALMON
OR CHEESE SPREAD
AND THIN SLICES
OF RADISH.

PANELLE DI SICILIA

"These chickpea-based wafers are typical Sicilian street food. They are often served hot in a roll with olive oil. At home, you can brush them with tapenade as an aperitif, or why not dip them in a delicious caponata dip?" Luana

SERVES 4 - PREPARATION TIME 20min - COOKING TIME 10 min - INGREDIENTS: 300g chickpea flour - 1 tbsp. chopped parsley - A few drops of lemon juice - Olive oil - Salt

1. Pour the chickpea flour into a saucepan with a pinch of salt and, little by little, add 900 ml of water, stirring with a whisk to avoid lumps. Cook over a low heat until the flour thickens, just like polenta. Add the parsley and mix well. **2.** Place the dough on a work surface lined with baking paper before covering with a second sheet of paper. Roll out with a rolling pin to a thickness of 5 mm. Leave to cool to room temperature, then cut into pieces using a square cookie cutter. **3.** Fry the panelle in hot olive oil, turning them over halfway through cooking. **4.** Drain the panelle on kitchen paper then sprinkle with salt and add a few drops of lemon juice.

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GNUDI MAREMMANI DI CAPALBIO

"A no fuss Sunday dish, ideal for celebrations or as a side dish." Luana

SERVES 4 - PREPARATION TIME 20 min - COOKING TIME 20 min - RESTING TIME 30 min - INGREDIENTS: 300 g spinach - 300 g ricotta goat's cheese - 2 eggs (or 1 large egg) - Grated nutmeg - 1 or 2 tbsp. flour - 60 g grated Parmesan cheese - Salt and pepper - For the sauce: 100g butter - 4 fresh sage

- 1.** Cook the spinach in boiling or steaming water, spin well until dry and chop. Mix the spinach in a bowl with the ricotta, eggs, salt, pepper, nutmeg and flour. The mixture should be moist. **2.** Form into balls, flour and leave to rest for 30 minutes. Melt the butter with the sage leaves in a frying pan. **3.** Cook the gnudi in a large pan of boiling salted water. When they rise to the surface, they are cooked. Remove them from the water with a slotted spoon and fry in the sage-flavored butter. **4.** Add the grated Parmesan before serving.

PANZANELLA TOSCANA DI CAPALBIO

"A wonderfully simple and appetising cold dish: no cooking is required. The white vinegar adds an intense and distinctive flavour to the salad. As always, every family has its own recipe. Here's the one that my friend Maurizia, Alessandro's godmother, makes for us when we visit her at her holiday home in Capalbio." Luana

SERVES 4 - PREPARATION TIME 20min - RESTING TIME 1 h - INGREDIENTS: 350g artisanal bread (at least 2 days old) - 5 cl white wine vinegar - 250g tomatoes (ripe but firm) - 200g cucumber - 1 red onion - Fresh basil - Olive oil - Salt and pepper

- 1.** Cut the bread into slices and then into large cubes. Transfer to a salad bowl, add 25 cl of water and the vinegar. Mix well: the bread should absorb the liquid. **2.** Dice the tomatoes. Peel the cucumber and cut into strips. Peel the onion and chop finely. Add the chopped basil. Mix well and chill for 1 hour. **3.** Season, drizzle with olive oil and add the thin vegetables to the salad bowl with the bread.

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CHEF'S TIP
FOR THIS DISH, PRIORITISE SUMMER GARDEN VEGETABLES AND USE UP LEFTOVER BREAD.



CHEF'S TIP
THIS IS A GREAT BREAD AND BUTTER PUDDING RECIPE FOR AVOIDING WASTE!

PINCIA DI VENISE

"One of my goals in the kitchen these days is to avoid wasting food. Here's a recipe that's not only waste-free but also extremely tasty." Alessandro

SERVES 4 - PREPARATION TIME 10min - COOKING TIME 50 min - RESTING TIME 30 min - INGREDIENTS: 100g stale bread - 20 cl milk - 50g raisins - 15g butter - 35g sugar - 35g flour - 1 egg - 1 pinch salt - 1 tbsp. breadcrumbs - 5g fennel seeds

- 1.** Soak the stale bread in the milk. Knead and leave to rest for 30 minutes. Soak the raisins in warm water for a few minutes to soften them.
- Preheat the oven to 180°C (gas mark 6). **2.** Mix all the other ingredients well (except the breadcrumbs and fennel). Butter a baking tin, sprinkle with breadcrumbs and pour in the batter. Top with fennel seeds and bake for 50 minutes. **3.** Leave to cool before serving.

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COCCOLI DI CAPALBIO

"A great recipe for an aperitif. They can be stuffed with ricotta, cold meats or cheese. Totally addictive!" Alessandro

MAKES 35 pieces - PREPARATION TIME 15 min - COOKING TIME 10 to 15 min - RESTING TIME 2 h - INGREDIENTS: 400g flour - 10g fresh baker's yeast - 8g salt - 8g sugar - Oil for frying

- 1.** Place the flour in a bowl, make a well in the centre and add the salt and baking yeast. Pour in 30cl of water and the sugar. **2.** Mix well to obtain a smooth dough. Cover with a damp cloth and leave to rest for 2 hours. **3.** Heat the oil to 170°C. Using 2 tablespoons greased in oil, form balls and fry until golden brown, turning them over. Leave to cool completely before serving.



CHEF'S TIP
GO SWEET BY STUFFING THE COCCOLI WITH A SCOOP OF ICE CREAM. A GREAT VARIATION ON PROFITEROLES, WITH AN ITALIAN TWIST!

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Meet the Chefs All roads lead to Rome! The Belmondos' family history also takes them to Sicily, Tuscany, and Venice. These four regions so dear to Italian-born Luana, "everyday cook" and author of numerous cookery books, have become the gastronomic playground of her son Alessandro, whose father is racing driver Paul Belmondo. Now the chef of the bistro restaurant Le Caillebotte in Paris, Alessandro trained in Michelin-starred cuisine with Hélène Darroze at The Connaught London and learnt all there is to know about Italian cuisine from this mother. Together, they have co-written this first book: a tribute to the family, to regional Italian cuisine and to its local producers and craftsmen. Served with love and conviviality! "La Nostra Italia" by Luana & Alessandro Belmondo - Solar Editions

Elle INTERNATIONAL

HOROSCOPE

ARIES

20 MARCH - 19 APRIL

At the end of April you will be forced to confront something - or someone - you have tried not to think about. It won't be easy, but you can take comfort from the fact that this is the last time, ever, that you will have to deal with this particular problem. It belongs to your past now, so leave it there. New and positive planetary influences are already taking you forwards into something better; go with them.

TAURUS

20 APRIL - 20 MAY

Your biggest problem is that when you find a comfortable spot, you want to stay there. With your own ruler Venus back home in your own sign for most of this month, life will feel good right now - but this is the year when you're supposed to be moving on and finding a new direction for yourself, remember? Don't lose sight of what you're aiming for, and above all don't let yourself lose momentum.

GEMINI

21 MAY - 20 JUNE

As Mercury starts to move forward again, it's time to bring yourself up to speed, to catch up with anything that you missed, and get yourself back into contention. It's a familiar routine, and you know what you're doing; but this time, unexpectedly, you find yourself asking deeper questions about your own motives. It's not enough just to win the game; there has to be something in it that's worth winning, too.

CANCER

21 JUNE - 21 JULY

Love affairs always come up at the wrong moments. This one rings every alarm bell that you know in terms of unexpectedness, inconvenience, and unsuitability; but animal instincts never pay any attention to things like schedules or career plans. The simple fact is that it's here, it's happening, and it makes you feel more alive than you have for a long time. Put other plans on hold for a while, and make the most of it.

LEO

22 JULY - 22 AUGUST

This is the time when all the potential for change that was being talked about at the start of the year becomes actualised. From a range of possible options comes a shortlist of probable outcomes, and then finally a definite result, all within the space of a few days. It's all very sudden, and may not be quite what you expected; plus, it's hard to see it properly from where you are. Don't let that put you off. It's all good.

VIRGO

23 AUGUST - 22 SEPTEMBER

You have spent more than enough time trying to fix problems in a situation which is never going to get any better. You can see now that the only answer is to start again and build something different, more forward-looking, and with potential for future growth. If other people are willing to help and to do their share, then fine; but if they insist on clinging to the past, you have no option but to leave them behind.

MAY

Text by BERNARD FITZWALTER

LIBRA

23 SEPTEMBER - 22 OCTOBER

You have let your horizons become too narrow, treading a steady path towards a predictable future. You deserve better than that - and this month will give you a glimpse of a very different future, full of life and movement. It would be wonderful to live like that, you think; but then you tell yourself that it's not possible. Why not? If it calls to you so strongly, why aren't you doing it already? It's there if you want it.

SCORPIO

23 OCTOBER - 21 NOVEMBER

When big changes swept over you at the start of the year, you were unable to do much about them. Now, as the planets which produced that upheaval take up more helpful positions, you can engage with the situation properly. Lean into the things that you want, sidestep the things that you don't. Talk, negotiate, do deals. It will be hard work, but you'll soon start making real progress, and that will feel good.

SAGITTARIUS

22 NOVEMBER - 20 DECEMBER

You know what you have to do, but you don't know how, which is why you haven't really got started yet. This month shows you the whole scenario from a different angle, one you haven't seen before - and it's a real moment of illumination. It makes you want to get to work at once, instead of finding excuses not to. You're back to your old self: energetic, curious, asking questions, finding answers. Wonderful.

CAPRICORN

21 DECEMBER - 19 JANUARY

Sometimes you are a bit slow to pick up on the messages you are being given, especially if their content is emotional rather than practical. There is someone you enjoy seeing at the moment, but you don't seem to have realised that there's a relationship forming between you. The planets will create at least three moments of romantic potential in the next few weeks: how much celestial pushing do you need?

AQUARIUS

20 JANUARY - 18 FEBRUARY

Although you are always willing to make small concessions to please other people, or step back to let someone else go first, there are certain deep principles that you will not go back on. This month you may find yourself pushed as far as you can go, right up to that line of principle that you will not cross; and so, naturally, you fight back. What follows will need careful management, but in the end all will be well.

PISCES

19 FEBRUARY - 19 MARCH

You still have Mars in your sign for a few days, and he will help you produce a spectacular lastmoment effort with an equally amazing result. When you look back later, you will wonder how you managed to do it; you couldn't do it again, you're sure of that. That's probably true, since the planetary alignment that helped you won't recur for ages; but you did it when you needed to, and that's what matters.

TANGERINE DREAMS

Get ready for a *zesty Summer* with this undeniably happy color ...



GIVENCHY



ACIER



LA DOUBLEJ



PRADA



DIOR



GUCCI



DOLCE & GABBANA



ANYA HINDMARCH



SAINT LAURENT

L'ART DE Le Français

*Every Friday
from 5pm*

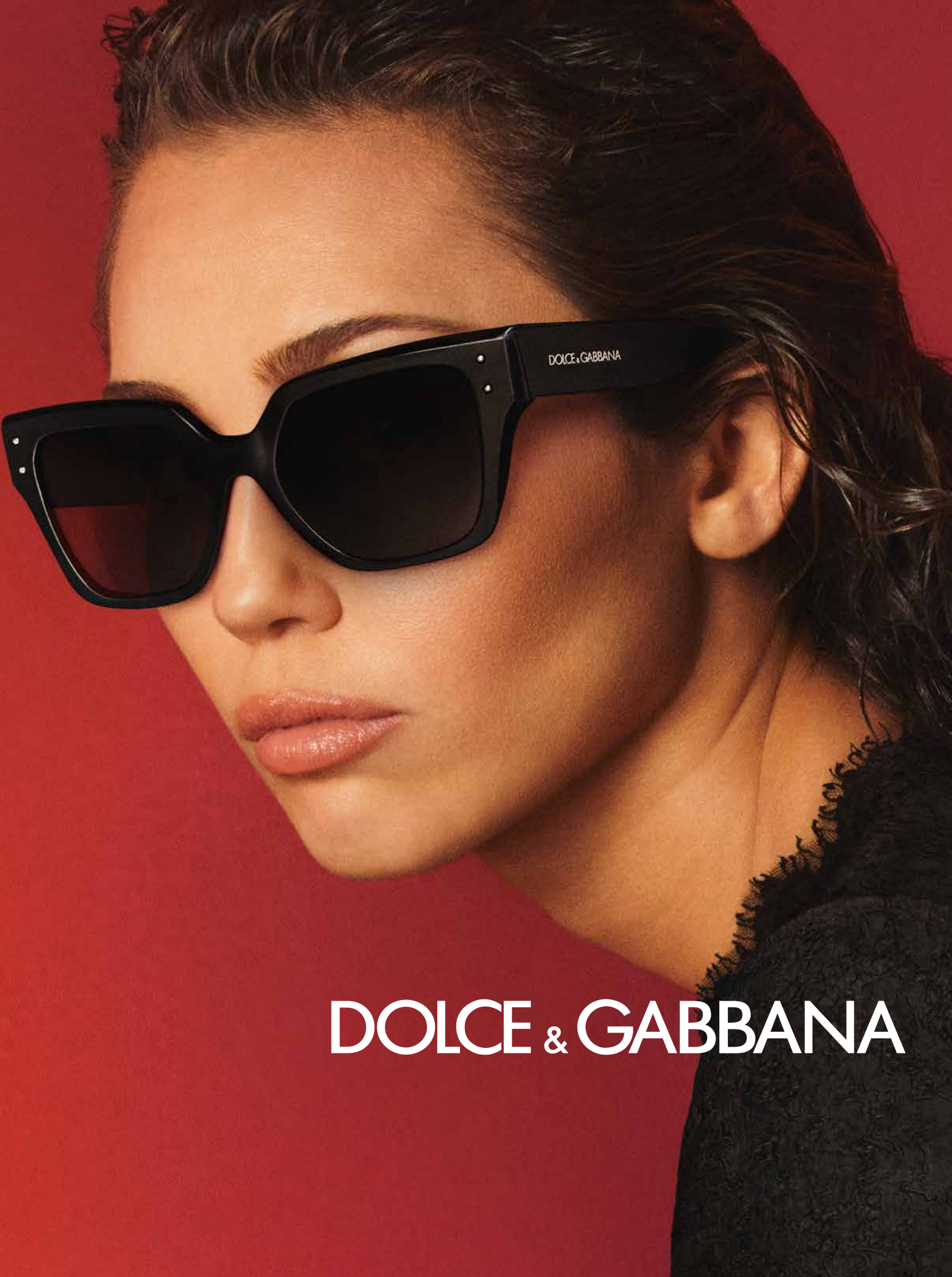
*French Riviera Vibes
Pétanque Courts
Rosé & Provençal Bites*

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DOLCE & GABBANA

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