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APRIL 2025

MODERN
ICONS

TIMELESS PIECES
FRESH PERSPECTIVES
& THE STYLE STORIES
SHAPING NOW



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Unscripted

FROM MUSIC TO THE MOVIES, SHE
SHARES HER STORY AND HER STYLE!



LOUIS VUITTON

FINE JEWELRY



DOLCE & GABBANA

ELLE

April 2025
Issue 164

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ASEEL OMRAN
rocks in Cartier jewelry
Top: Jacquemus

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80 YEARS ELLE

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Below: SPOTLIGHT ON... TWEED – ALWAYS A CHIC CLASSIC – HAS REAFFIRMED ITS STANDING THIS YEAR AS THE GO-TO FOR ALL OCCASIONS. LET CHANEL SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE.... **Right:** CHERRY ON TOP.... PLAYFUL POPS OF RED AND CHERRY MOTIFS ARE EVERYWHERE, FROM FLIRTY DRESSES TO GLOSSY ACCESSORIES. JUST LIKE THE FRUIT, IT'S THE PERFECT BLEND OF SWEET AND BOLD

Total Look Chanel, Stylist + Creative Director Kate Hazell; Photographer Amer Mohamad; Videographer Augusta Quaynor; Makeup Najette Ezzarqui; Hair Safiyah Cassim At Mmg; Model Diana G At Fashion League, Location Dubai Safari Park



LA DOUBLEJ



COACH



N°21



ZADIG & VOLTAIRE



DES PHEMMES

VALENTINO

A SEASON OF RENEWAL

Dear Reader,

April invites us to step into the light. This issue captures that spirit – of transformation, boldness, and beauty in full bloom. Whether it's through a sweeping kaftan in a sun-drenched palazzo, the shimmer of high jewelry, or a conversation with a creative force carving her own path, this edition celebrates the season of renewal with stories that spark both reflection and reinvention.

Our cover star, Aseel Omran, epitomizes this energy. Known for her soulful voice, magnetic screen presence, and fearless fashion, she opens up about her ever-evolving journey from chart-topping pop star to Cartier-clad actress.

Spring, of course, is not just a season – it's a state of mind. Inside, you'll find curated edits and ideas to elevate your wardrobe and beauty rituals. Think: iridescent tweed at Chanel, botanical innovations at Sisley, and a radiant

return to beloved symbols of luck at Dior Joaillerie. We spotlight creators who are shaping culture – from Kika Saab's deeply personal story of motherhood to Syrian artist Sana Maarrawi's emotionally-charged canvases.

There's also wanderlust in these pages. Whether it's an urban sanctuary like Aman Tokyo, the artistic wonders of La Vallée Village during Eid, or the playful color bursts of Louis Vuitton x Murakami, there's magic to be found in the unexpected.



Dina Spahi

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BRUNELLO CUCINELLI

Arabic Oud العريفة للعود

ELLE

by Arabic Oud

THE ART
OF ARABIAN
PERFUMERY
MEETS FASHION

SCENT YOUR
STYLE



ENJOY
COMPLIMENTARY
SAMPLE



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FREE SPIRIT

We're channeling the carefree energy of the season with earthy tones, natural textures and effortlessly cool pieces



1. ISABEL MARANT
2. DÔEN
3. AQUAZZURA
4. VALENTINO
5. TORY BURCH
6. FENDI
7. LUV LOU
8. ROHE



The BAG

Gabo Guzzo's Millefoglie 25 is a study in structure and versatility, balancing architectural precision with Italian craftsmanship. Made from calfskin with a soft lambskin interior, it features a jewelry clasp set with a cabochon-cut gemstone and 8 functional pockets. We love the numbered plate inside, signed by both Gabo Guzzo and the artisan.



The EARRINGS

Chopard's Insofi collection reimagines the journey of an emerald, tracing its origins from raw stone to haute joaillerie. These earrings, set in ethical 18-carat white gold, feature four emerald-cut emeralds (15.91 cts) and two emerald-cut diamonds. The collection reflects Chopard's decision to work from an uncut stone, ensuring full traceability.



The TIMEPIECE

Presented in a diamond-set pink gold 36mm case, the 270-piece limited edition *Vacheron Constantin Traditionnelle Moon Phase* is driven by the manufacture Calibre 1410 AS/270. This high-precision moon phase complication is accurate to 122 years. The calibre bears the 270th anniversary emblem and features the 'côte unique' finish. The mother-of-pearl dial is enhanced by the anniversary motif.

ELLE

radar

EFFORTLESSLY CHIC...
The Romy Bag from Tory Burch combines a soft pebbled leather with a beautifully gathered silhouette, making it the perfect everyday accessory. With a spacious interior and versatile design, it can be carried both top-handle or crossbody!



Trends in Bloom...

DISCOVER THE SEASON'S MUST-HAVE ACCESSORIES AND THE LATEST TRENDS THAT DEFINE A NEW WAVE OF STYLE



- 1. LUCASHEVA
- 2. THE ATTICO
- 3. ROGER VIVIER
- 4. GIANVITO ROSSI
- 5. GABRIELA HEARST

Everybody's wearing... Slingbacks

More comfortable than your average heel and way cooler, this is the shoe you'll want to wear everywhere. Especially when the temperature rises!



Throwing it Back

When you've got a series of hits under your belt, it's worth pulling them out and celebrating. That's exactly what Jacquemus is doing – after 15 years of iconic fashion, the French house is diving deep into its archives with a stunning re-edition of its most memorable collections in "LES 15 ANS."

FASHION MEMO

A curated roundup of the best new fashion and noteworthy pieces to pay attention to now!

Back to school

Ready to shape the future of fashion? Istituto Marangoni is launching its Riyadh campus in August 2025, offering specialized programs in Fashion Design, Management and more. Plus, with 50 scholarships up for grabs, this is your chance to join a legacy of industry leaders and elevate your fashion career to the next level.



Fifty Shades Of... Sunset

Can you feel the heat? The runways are glowing with bursts of sunshine yellow, fiery orange, and bold red, bringing all the summer warmth you'll need for the season ahead.

ON OUR WISHLISTS



What better way to inject some new season joy than by donning a spring dress – light, romantic and ever-so pretty, they bring a sense of delight to any occasion.

Shady Lady

Summer on the horizon can only mean one thing – a new pair of shades to shield from the sun. Dropping not 1, but 11 new unisex sunnies are COS and Linda Farrow who are blending vintage vibes with cutting-edge style – think oversized cateyes and sleek aviators, basically, your new summer must-haves!



Coveted Collab

WHO: H&M X MAGDA BUTRYUM
WHAT: If her blooming world wasn't attainable, it now is! With the house's iconic rose as its central motif, this hot collab revisits Magda's most beloved silhouettes dipping into her archives and reinterpreting bestsellers like delicate 3D floral dresses and oversized structured coats.



DROPS 24 APRIL 2025 AT THE DUBAI MALL, MALL OF EMIRATES, THE AVENUES MALL, PHASE 4, AND RIYADH PARK AND ONLINE IN KWT, KSA, AND UAE.

VITTORIA CERETTI



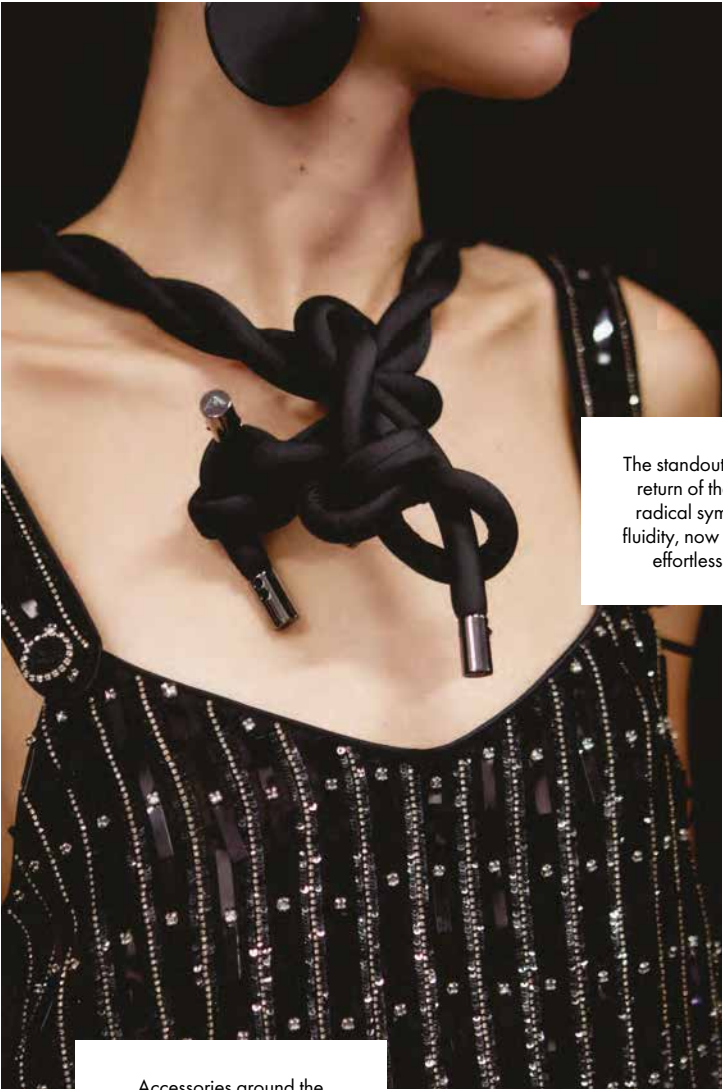
Soft jackets, breezy trousers and trench coats balance against flowing dresses and wraparound draping, proving that masculine and feminine elements don't compete - they complement.

Future Perfect:

ARMANI'S TIMELESS EDGE SS25

Giorgio Armani blends past and future in a collection that redefines effortless power dressing

Giorgio Armani has mastered the art of evolution without disruption. His latest collection, Future Perfect, captures this philosophy with a seamless interplay of structure and fluidity.



The standout statement? The return of the tie – a once-radical symbol of gender fluidity, now a playful nod to effortless confidence.



“Armani doesn't chase trends, and his SS25 collection proves just that true style is always ahead of its time”

Accessories ground the look in understated luxury. Ballet flats transition into ankle boots, capacious woven bags mix with sleek micro handbags and wide-brimmed hats complete the effortless aesthetic.



The palette mirrors this contrast: earthy neutrals meet iridescent pink, soft sage and bursts of blue and fuchsia.

ARMANI SS 2025



SCARLET FEVER

Nothing commands attention quite like the color red – with its *vibrant, fiery demeanor*, it'll stop people (and traffic) in their *tracks*.



LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT

COASTAL COOL

Warmer weather can only mean one thing, *beach days on the horizon* and a uniform of *sailor stripes*, cotton *slacks* and wind-resistant jackets.

1. ZULU & ZEPHYR 2. JULIETTA 3. CHLOÉ 4. JIL SANDER 5. SAINT LAURENT 6. ÉLIQU 7. PRADA 8. BYREDO 9. JOHANNA ORTIZ 10. RABANNE

"REINVENTION
ISN'T ABOUT
CHANGING
WHO YOU ARE IT'S
ABOUT REFINING
YOUR PASSIONS"
Rosie Huntington-Whiteley



Front Row with ROSIE HUNTINGTON-WHITELEY

Rain-soaked pavements, faded florals and one of Britain's most recognizable faces sitting front row Burberry's Winter 2025 show rewrites countryside nostalgia with subversive charm



Rosie Huntington-Whiteley is exactly where you'd expect her to be – front row at Burberry, wrapped in camel wool, trench belted just so. At Tate Britain, under chandeliers and frescos disguised as dust sheets, Daniel Lee's Burberry world unfolded: a romantic tangle of stately home interiors and off-duty outdoors.

THE MOOD?

Weekend escape meets inherited eccentricity. Think long rainy walks, carpets turned into coats and classic silhouettes with a twist that's more Britpop than Bridgerton. It was less about reinvention, more about remembering – just with better leather.

• COUNTRYSIDE, COMPLICATED:

Lee leans into English oddity with velvet jackets cut like tapestries, coats that look pinched from a manor's drawing room, pheasant prints turned couture.

• THE NEW PRACTICAL:

Trench coats go embossed. Capes show up in shearling and Irish tweed, and Shackleton's parka makes a comeback – as a leather jacket.

• COLOR THERAPY:

Warm, lived-in tones like Tapestry brown, Alder green, and punk yellow brush up against washed-out countryside plaids and Yorkshire greys.

• FABRIC MEETS FURNITURE:

Embroidered damask becomes footwear. Lace is treated like sculpture. Wallpaper textures wrap the body in something between nostalgia and armor.

• BAG CHECK:

The B Bracelet bag plays with saddlery curves and bridle-inspired hardware. The B Clip returns, softened with tapestry motifs and scuffed leather.

• CAST WITH CHARACTER:

A who's who of British cool: Lesley Manville, Jason Isaacs, Jessica Madsen. More drama than a BBC period piece.

• ROSIE SPEAKS:

"My first Burberry piece? The trench, of course," she told us post-show. "It still fits. Still makes sense." Her style, much like the brand she keeps coming back to, is about staying rooted while moving forward.





INTERVIEW WITH ROSIE HUNTINGTON-WHITELEY

You've had an incredible journey as a model, actress and entrepreneur. Looking back, what have been the defining moments of your career, and how do you see your evolution in the fashion and beauty industries? Looking back, there have been several defining moments that shaped my career. From walking the runway and starring in global campaigns to exploring acting and entrepreneurship, each experience has been a stepping stone, opening new doors and broadening my perspective. My transition into business happened naturally – I've always been passionate about beauty, fashion, and wellness. I started by immersing myself in the industry beyond just being in front of the camera, learning the intricacies of building a brand. Over time, my role expanded from hands-on involvement in product development to focusing on strategic partnerships and long-term vision. Watching my business take shape has been an incredibly rewarding experience. For me, growth has always been about embracing challenges and stepping outside my comfort zone. Reinvention isn't about changing who you are – it's about refining your passions, staying true to your values and continuously learning. I'm grateful for how my journey has unfolded, and I'm excited to see where it leads next.

You have a long-standing relationship with Burberry. What makes this partnership so special to you, and how has your connection with the brand evolved over the years? My relationship with Burberry feels deeply personal. From the beginning, it was about more than just fashion – it was about shared values, timeless elegance, and a strong sense of heritage. Burberry perfectly blends British tradition with a modern, youthful energy, and that's something I've always connected with. Over the years, I've had the privilege of being part of some truly special moments – whether starring in campaigns or collaborating with the creative team. Every project feels like a partnership, a shared vision that brings out the best in both of us. I'm so proud to work with a brand that

continuously pushes boundaries while staying true to its legacy.

Do you remember the first Burberry piece you ever owned? What drew you to the brand initially, and how does it continue to resonate with your personal style today? The first Burberry piece I owned was the iconic trench coat. I was so inspired by Christopher Bailey's attention to detail and his unwavering commitment to craftsmanship – it was timeless, elegant and effortlessly chic. That's something I've always admired about the brand. Today, my personal style revolves around classic, well-tailored pieces that stand the test of time, and Burberry continues to embody that beautifully. It's a brand that evolves while staying true to its DNA, which is something I really respect.

You have a strong fan base in the Arab world. What do you admire most about the region, its fashion, and its beauty culture? There's such a richness to the culture, the people, and, of course, the fashion. The craftsmanship is incredible – whether it's intricate embroidery, luxurious fabrics, or statement pieces, there's always this perfect blend of heritage and modernity. What I love most is the way beauty is celebrated as an art form. There's an effortless elegance in the way people present themselves, and the attention to detail in makeup and styling is truly inspiring. I feel incredibly privileged to be embraced by such a creative and passionate community.

You've visited the region multiple times. Can you share a memorable experience from your past visits? And do you have any plans to return soon? I've had so many unforgettable experiences, but visiting the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque stands out as one of the most special. It was such an honor to be there – the architecture, the serenity, the sheer beauty of it all left a lasting impression on me. I always love spending time in the region, and I truly hope to be back soon. There's so much inspiration and warmth in every visit.

Whether in fashion, beauty, or business, what's next for you? Are there any exciting projects or collaborations in the works that you can share? 2025 is shaping up to be an incredibly exciting year! I have several projects in the works across fashion, beauty, and wellness, as well as exciting developments with my investment platform, The Equity Studio. There's so much more to come – stay tuned!

ON THE COUCHES... AT THE BURBERRY WINTER SHOW 2025 AT TATE BRITAIN



1. Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, Florence Huntington-Whiteley 2. Naika, Shanina Shaik, Mohammed Al Turki, Nicky Hilton Rothschild and Emma Weymouth 3. Brooklyn Peltz Beckham and Nicola Peltz Beckham 4. Charlie Heaton and Natalia Dyer 5. Elizabeth Jagger, Jerry Hall and Georgia May Jagger 6. Nicholas Hoult, Orlando Bloom





Layering is key; crocheted minis meet floor-grazing dusters, while sculpted waist belts cinch silhouettes with just the right amount of structure.



Snakeskin prints on blouses and accessories add a striking edge, while metallic charms and braided embellishments elevate the intricate craftsmanship of each piece.



REBEL RHYTHMS

H&M'S
S/S 2025
HITS ALL
THE RIGHT
NOTES

*A fresh take on
festival fashion,
inspired by
rock icons and
modern muses*



Oversized slouchy shoulder bags, festival-ready biker boots, and fringed sandals set the tone, while statement jewelry – dangling pendants, stacked bangles, and bold chokers – provides the finishing touch.

A carefully curated color palette sets the mood: warm, sun-drenched neutrals meet rich earth tones, with buttery yellows, deep chocolates and soft oyster shades creating a timeless yet fresh appeal.

H&M's Spring/Summer 2025 collection is a festival-ready wardrobe infused with effortless Rock 'n' Roll glamor. This first chapter in the S/S 2025 drop channels a free-spirited attitude with sweeping blouses, fluid silhouettes, and vintage-inspired textures paired with modern urban refinement. The collection's aesthetic is a rich fusion of eras and influences, blending 70s rockstar nonchalance, 90s reinterpretations of bohemian style, and contemporary streetwear appeal. Think lace-up tunics, tiered ruffle skirts and diaphanous sheer dresses paired with structured leather jackets. Delicate, heirloom-like details add a dreamy, romantic touch, while tougher elements – studded blazers, multi-pocket vests and high-slit skirts – inject just the right dose of attitude. It's all about contrast, a mix of textures and styles.

This season, H&M enlists an eclectic group of music and fashion's most captivating talents to bring to life this collection that is designed for movement, self-expression, and effortless cool to life. Whether it's the powerful sensuality of Tyla's flowing maxi dress, FKA twigs' edgy take on corsetry and lace, or Caroline Polachek's ethereal play on layering, each artist brings their signature style to the story.

Event Update: We're looking forward to a star-studded fashion and music festival in Los Angeles on April 9!

Lady Dior: Around the world

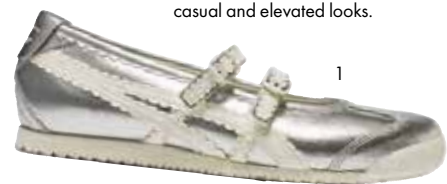
Nearly 30 years after its debut, the Lady Dior is revisited in a new series connecting the bag to Paris, London, and New York. Lady Dior embarks on a dazzling journey across Paris, London, and New York in a new visual story by Brigitte Niedermair, capturing the bag's deep-rooted ties to each fashion capital. In Paris, it's photographed against the Eiffel Tower, echoing the bag's signature cannage stitching.

FIRST CARRIED BY PRINCESS DIANA IN 1995, THE LADY DIOR CONTINUES TO EVOLVE WHILE STAYING FIRMLY IN THE FASHION SPOTLIGHT.

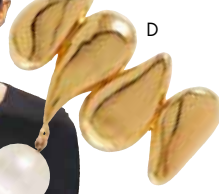
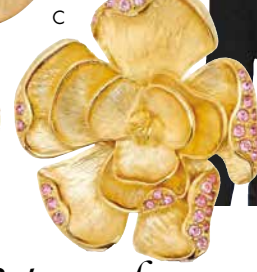
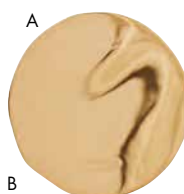


Marketplace: The Sneaker Ballerina Hybrid

Part ballet flat, part sneaker, this new silhouette is gaining traction for its blend of comfort and polish – slipping easily into both casual and elevated looks.



1. ONITSUKA
TIGER X PATOU
2. PUMA
3. MIU MIU



A. JIL SANDER
B. NINA RICCI
C. OSCAR DE LA
RENTA
D. AGMES
E. VALENTINO
GARAVANI

The Return of ... the Statement Brooch

Oversized gold brooches are making a comeback, pinned boldly to blazers, knits, and eveningwear as a standout styling move this season



CAROLINA HERRERA

ELLE

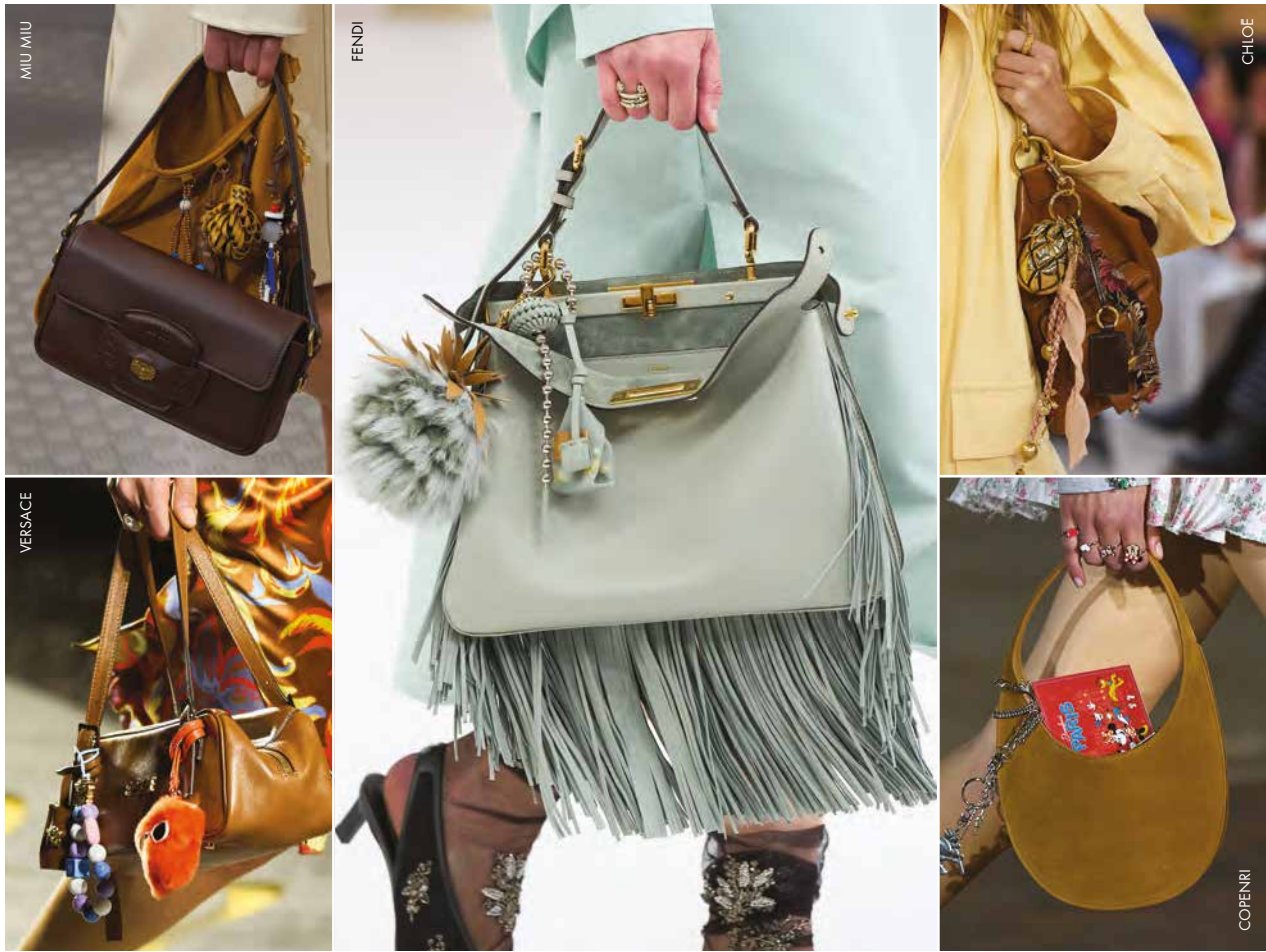
accessories

URBAN NATURE...
In 90 x 90, Gucci invites 9 artists, including Yu Cai, to reinterpret its iconic motifs, from Flora to the GG Monogram, through their own artistic lens. Known for her imaginative urban narratives, Yu Cai blends architectural forms with vibrant animal figures, transforming the silk scarf into a surreal metropolis where nature and cityscapes merge. Her design reimagines classic Gucci fauna through a futuristic lens in a contemporary vision of soft pastels.



Eye on Design...

TAKE NOTE FROM THE MASTERS TO MAKE AN IMPACT!



ARM CANDY

Charms the word when it comes to accessories and it's all about piling on a mix of trinkets and keyrings to your bag. Just remember – the more you add, the better!

ON OUR WISHLISTS



LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT

RETRO REVIVAL

In new minimalistic versions, the retro sneaker promises a (stylish) trip down memory lane. Wear with high socks for a nostalgic throwback.



Ready, set, go... Run, don't walk, these kicks won't be available for too long!



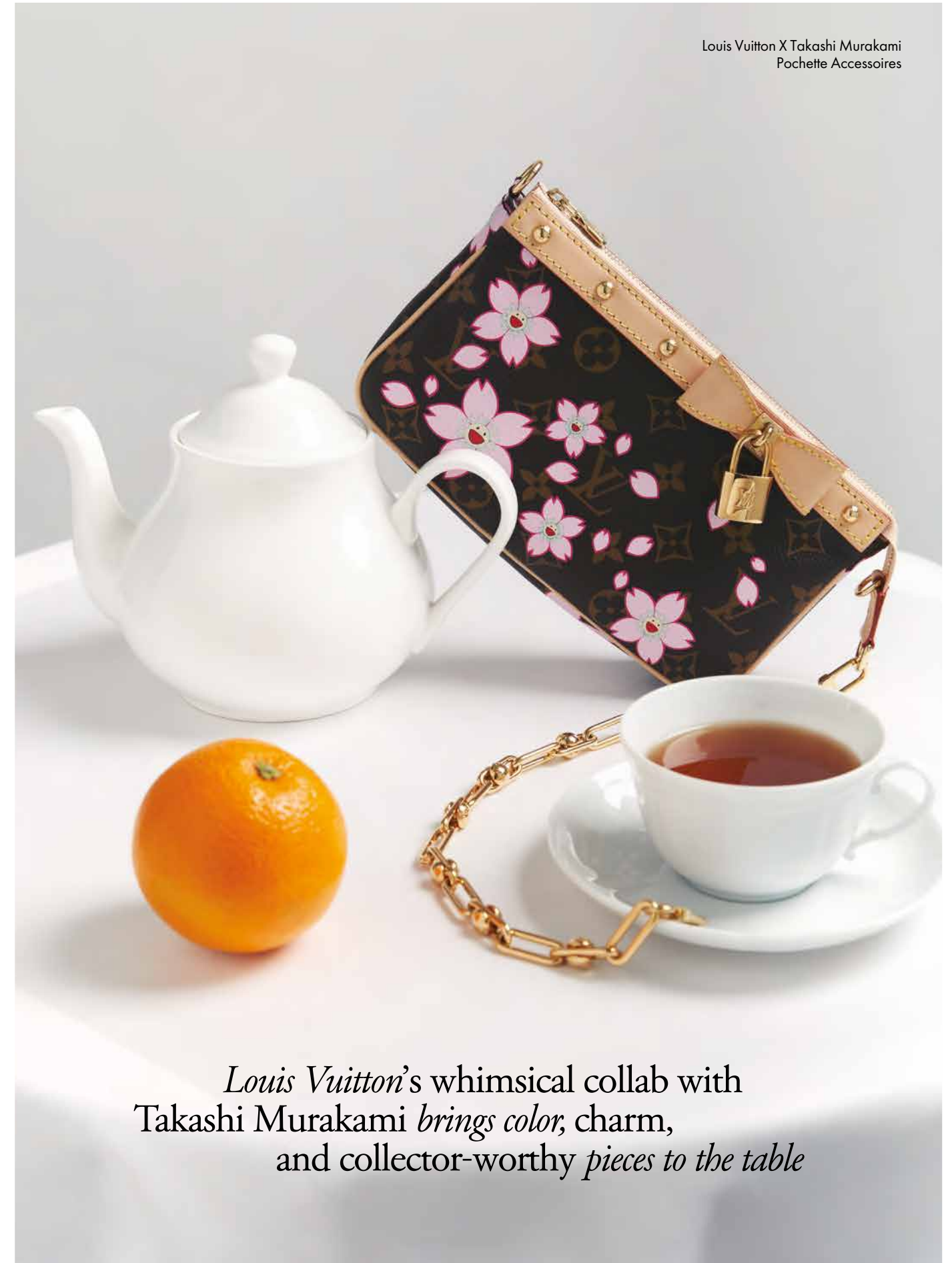
Clockwise from left: PROENZA SCHOULER; MIU MIU; CHLOÉ; ADIDAS



Louis Vuitton X Takashi Murakami Nice Mini

M Café Monogram

Photographer ALICJA ZALEWSKA



Louis Vuitton X Takashi Murakami
Pochette Accessoires

Louis Vuitton's whimsical collab with Takashi Murakami brings color, charm, and collector-worthy pieces to the table



Louis Vuitton X Takashi Murakami Papillon



Louis Vuitton X Takashi Murakami
Monogram Cherry Blossom Square 70

Louis Vuitton X Takashi Murakami
Keepall Bandoulière 45



Accessories

Louis Vuitton X Takashi Murakami Monogram
Cherry Blossom Bandeau BB





INSIDER

FENDI 100

A CENTURY OF STYLE AND REINVENTION

Stepping into Fendi's world is like walking through a time capsule where heritage meets audacity. Since its founding in 1925, the Roman Maison has built a legacy of craftsmanship, innovation, and boundary-pushing design. Now, as Fendi celebrates its 100th anniversary, it does so not by looking back but by embracing the future - just as Karl Lagerfeld once envisioned in his sketches that transcended time.



DECADES OF TRANSFORMATION

Illustrations by Lagerfeld with his signature sharp lines and fearless vision trace Fendi's journey from the 1960s to the present. Each decade tells a story of reinvention:

1960s:

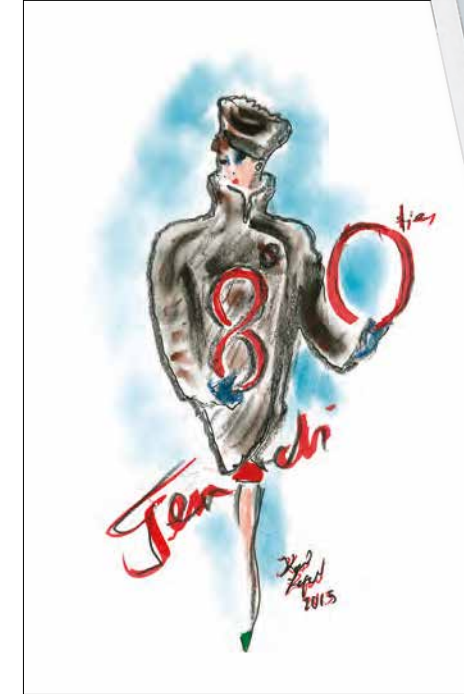
The rise of the FF logo, "Fun Furs," and the boldness of the five Fendi sisters. A new language of luxury was born.



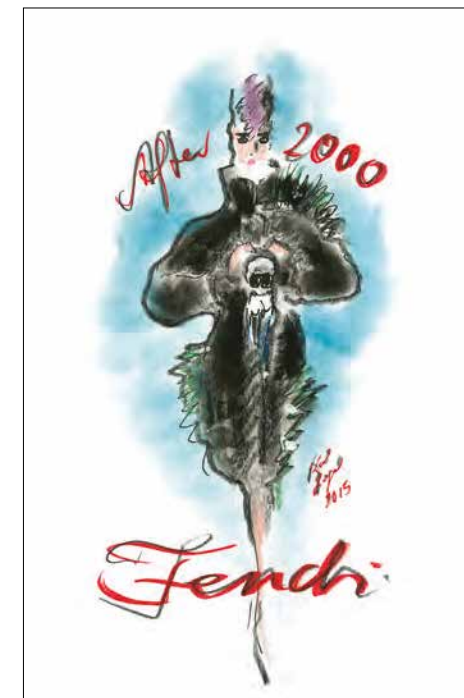
1970s: A decade of expansion, where Rome's artisanal touch met the global stage. The House's designs became a staple among fashion icons.



1990s: Enter the Baguette bag. Designed by Silvia Venturini Fendi in 1997, it became a cultural phenomenon - immortalized in Sex and the City.



1980s: The era of excess and power dressing, where Fendi ready-to-wear collections made their mark. Karl Lagerfeld infused modernity into tradition.



2000s: LVMH's acquisition, global dominance, and the transformation of Palazzo della Civiltà Italiana into Fendi's headquarters, solidifying its Roman roots with contemporary ambition.



ICONS & INNOVATIONS

Fendi is a House of firsts. It was the first to stage a fashion show on the Great Wall of China (2007), the first to turn the Trevi Fountain into a runway (2016), and the first to seamlessly blend heritage with digital culture, collaborating with artists, musicians, and global tastemakers. Every milestone reaffirms the Maison's philosophy: "Nothing is impossible." With the unveiling of the Fendi Crest, the fusion of past and present is sharper than ever. Lagerfeld's sketch "Ieri, Oggi, Domani" (Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow) remains a testament to Fendi's enduring spirit.



Founded in Rome in 1925 by Adele and Edoardo Fendi, FENDI blossomed from a small, artisanal fur and leather workshop into a global luxury House. In the 1940s and 1950s, Adele and Edoardo's five daughters - Paola, Anna, Franca, Carla, and Alda - joined the family business, each contributing unique talents that fueled the brand's expansion and innovation.



A high jewelry necklace showcases tanzanite with a diamond-adorned frame for enhanced brilliance.

The new sautoir design combines mother-of-pearl and diamonds with versatile styling options.

A Bond BEYOND TIME

Pomellato introduces two new expressions of its design *philosophy* with the latest Pomellato *Together* and *Nudo* collections

Nudo expands its legacy with the introduction of Nudo Mini, a smaller yet distinctive version of its signature design. The collection includes pendants, bangles and hoop earrings in sky blue and London blue topaz, as well as a new milky quartz variation. Additionally, the Nudo Toi et Moi rings bring asymmetry and contrast through gemstone pairings, while high jewelry additions feature rare stones like rubellite and tanzanite.

Pomellato **Together** builds on the Maison's signature motif of unity, featuring rings, bracelets, and pendants with interlocking elements. The collection introduces reversible designs, a new soft bracelet with a flexible structure and a sliding mechanism that allows for adjustability. Crafted in rose gold and accented with diamonds, these pieces offer versatility while maintaining a strong symbolic connection.

The statement choker features a flexible cane structure for both comfort and bold styling.

A new one-band ring reinterprets the Maison's historic 'Lucciole' diamond setting.

ELLE

SPIRIT OF THE PANTHER...
A masterpiece of duality, this Panthère jewelry watch merges watchmaking precision with high jewelry artistry. Crafted in white gold and set with 1,103 brilliant-cut diamonds, its emerald-eyed panther comes to life through an intricate fur setting technique.



The Vault...

UNLOCKING THE WORLD OF HIGH JEWELRY WITH EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS, VISIONARY SHOTS AND THE LATEST TRENDS

Damiani High Jewelry Margherita Ring
Damiani High Jewelry Margherita Secret Watch
Damiani Margherita Earrings
Jacket, Kristina Fidelskaya

Petals OF light

Adorned in *Damiani's* exquisite and feminine High Jewelry Mimosa and Margherita collections, *Alia Khafajy*, CEO and founder of OKTA, reflects on legacy, leadership, and *the art of conscious beauty*

Jewelry

Damiani Mimosa Rings
Damiani Mimosa Earrings
Damiani High Jewelry Mimosa Bracelet
Top, Bouguessa

Photographer AMER MOHAMAD Stylist POLINA SHABELNIKOVA

IN CONVERSATION WITH...

Alia Khafajy, CEO & FOUNDER OF OKTA

What's new for you, and for O K T A in 2025? It's shaping up to be a milestone year. We have some incredible new brands joining our portfolio, ones I'm personally excited about alongside fresh launches from our existing lineup. With both distribution and e-commerce at the core of our business, we're sharpening our focus on strategic expansion, particularly in key regional markets like KSA and Kuwait. At the same time, we're amplifying our direct-to-consumer experience through www.discoverokta.com, ensuring our community has even more access to the brands they love.

What kind of legacy do you hope to build through O K T A? With O K T A, my vision goes beyond curating conscious beauty – it's about creating and an ecosystem that fosters education, connection and



mindful living. Yes, it starts with thoughtful products, but at its core O K T A is more than a platform for conscious beauty. It's about building a community rooted in integrity, support, and a deeper connection to ourselves, to each other, and to the planet. I want O K T A to be more than a destination for beauty; I want it to be a place of discovery, where people come to learn, to understand nature, and, in some way, to find themselves whether it's learning about beauty through the lens of nature or engaging in conversations that challenge and inspire.

Tell us about this shoot and what Damiani means to you? It's an honor

to be part of this shoot, representing a heritage brand like Damiani. I have deep admiration for family-owned businesses that have preserved their legacy and ownership through time – it's something that resonates with me on a personal level. Coming from a family business myself, I understand the dedication, values and sense of stewardship that come with it. There's something truly special about building on tradition while shaping the future, and being part of that narrative makes this experience even more meaningful.

How does Emirati culture shape beauty, wellness and luxury in the region? Beauty in Emirati culture is deeply woven into our sense of self – it's not just about appearance, but the aura we carry. For Emirati women, femininity is embraced with grace, confidence, and a quiet strength. It's about embodying self-worth, moving with intention, and honoring the pride of being a woman. That intrinsic sense of value naturally shapes our choices in beauty, fashion, luxury, and wellness – it's never about excess, but about deserving, about choosing what truly resonates. You see it in the way Emirati women carry themselves: with elegance, presence, and an unspoken assurance that beauty is as much about energy as it is about aesthetics.

What's a major challenge that reshaped your approach as a leader? One of the biggest challenges that reshaped my approach as a leader was finding the balance between assertiveness and kindness. Leadership requires trust in your own decisions, but as a woman, I've often found myself navigating the delicate space between diplomacy and decisiveness. I've learned that true leadership isn't about being liked by everyone; it's about making the right calls with integrity, even when they aren't the easiest.

What advice do you have for aspiring Arab women entrepreneurs? When you're just starting out, there's a certain boldness in not knowing too much; you take risks more freely, without overthinking every step. But as you grow, the key is to stay fearless while refining your vision. Find your niche, no matter how simple, and own your voice in it – that will be the thread that ties everything together. Good things take time, so don't get caught up in the noise of what others are doing or how far ahead they seem. Stay in your lane, focus on strategic effort, and trust the process. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Above all, find your 'why.' That's what will carry you through the inevitable days of doubt.

If you could describe your personal style in three words, what would they be? Comfortable, timeless and mood-driven. For me, style is about feeling at ease in what I wear, choosing pieces that stand the test of time, and allowing my outfit to reflect how I feel in the moment.

What's one beauty or wellness ritual you swear by? Icing my face in the morning has been a game-

changer – it instantly wakes me up, depuffs and gives my skin that fresh, plumped-up glow. It's like a mini facelift before coffee! Another non-negotiable in my routine is gua sha. I love taking a few mindful minutes each day to massage my face – it's both sculpting and therapeutic. And of course, a great moisturizer is key. I always go back to The Fix Face Potion from Khus Khus – it's deeply nourishing and versatile enough to use on the under-eyes and lips. But honestly, I could go on and on – it's hard to stick to just one choice when it comes to skincare!

PHOTOGRAPHER: AMER MOHAMMAD, STYLIST: POLINA SHABELNIKOVA, HAIR STYLIST: ANASTASIA ALAWADHI, MAKEUP ARTIST: JEAN KAROUZ, LOCATION: BICROSS STUDIOS, TALENT: ALIA KHAFAJY

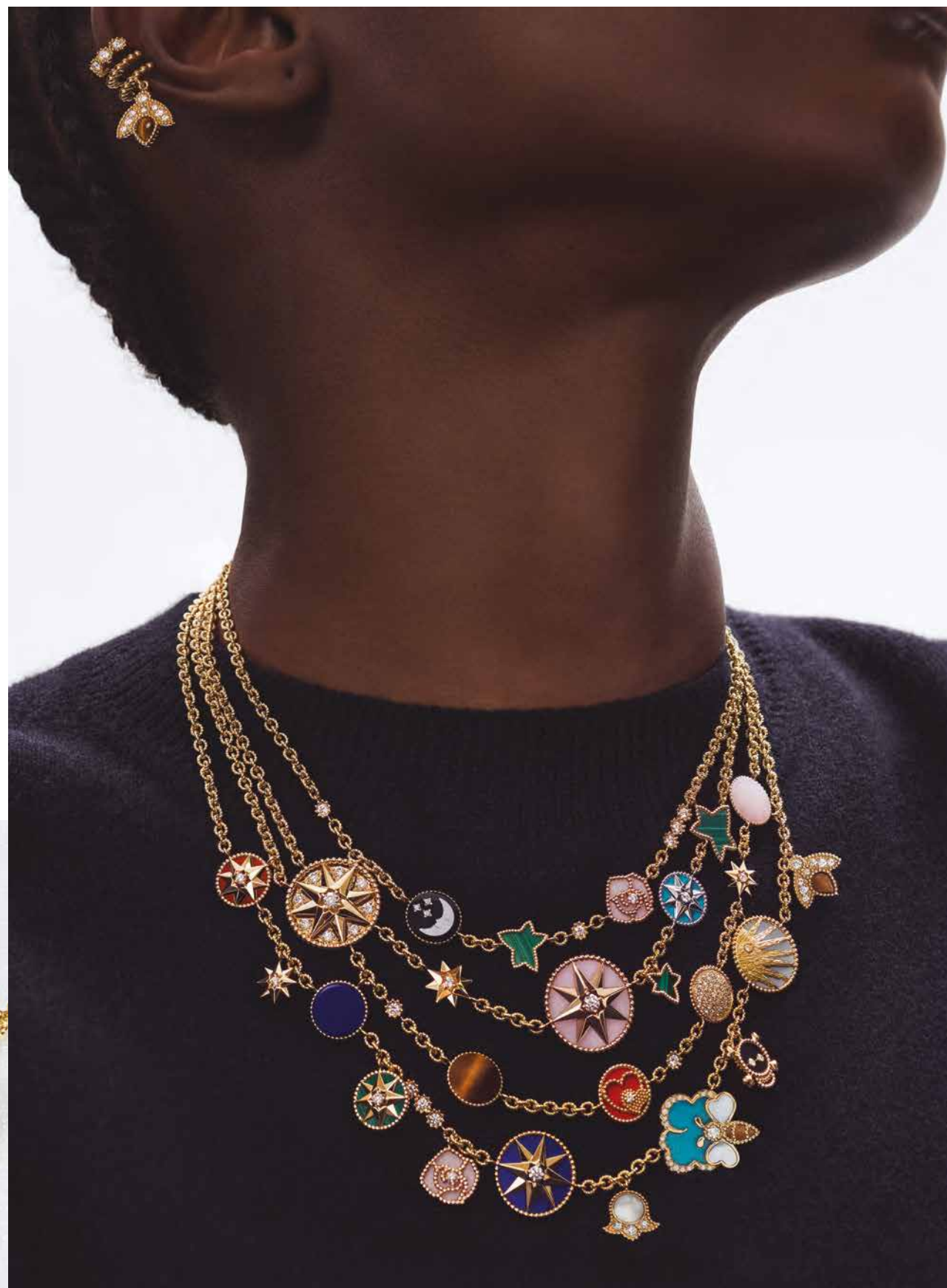
Left page: Damiani High Jewelry Mimosa Earrings, Damiani High Jewelry Mimosa Bracelet Top, 12Stories; Blazer, BLSSD

This page: Damiani Mimosa Watch, Damiani Mimosa Necklace, Damiani Mimosa Ring, Damiani Mimosa Earrings Dress, Magda Butrym; Coat, Marina Rinaldi



A NEW SPIN ON FATE

Dior Joaillerie's *Rose des Vents* expands its universe with cosmic symbols, bold ear cuffs, and a fresh take on luck



Devised in 2015 by Victoire de Castellane, the *Rose des Vents* line is a tribute to the history and the essence of the House.

A compass rose, a guiding star, a lucky charm - since 2015, *Rose des Vents* has been weaving celestial storytelling into fine jewelry. Now, a new chapter unfolds. *Étoile des Vents* takes the signature star motif and pushes it further, playing with size, texture and a bolder sense of movement.

The highlight? Diamond-studded ear cuffs, designed to be worn solo or stacked in constellations. There's also a pendulum-style watch, more mystical than mechanical, and reversible sun-and-moon medallions that shift with every turn.

Charms remain at the heart of the story, but with a twist. A bee in flight, an ivy vine, even a skull and crossbones — each one a secret symbol, appearing on rings, necklaces and transformable pieces that shift and adapt, just like the winds that inspire them.

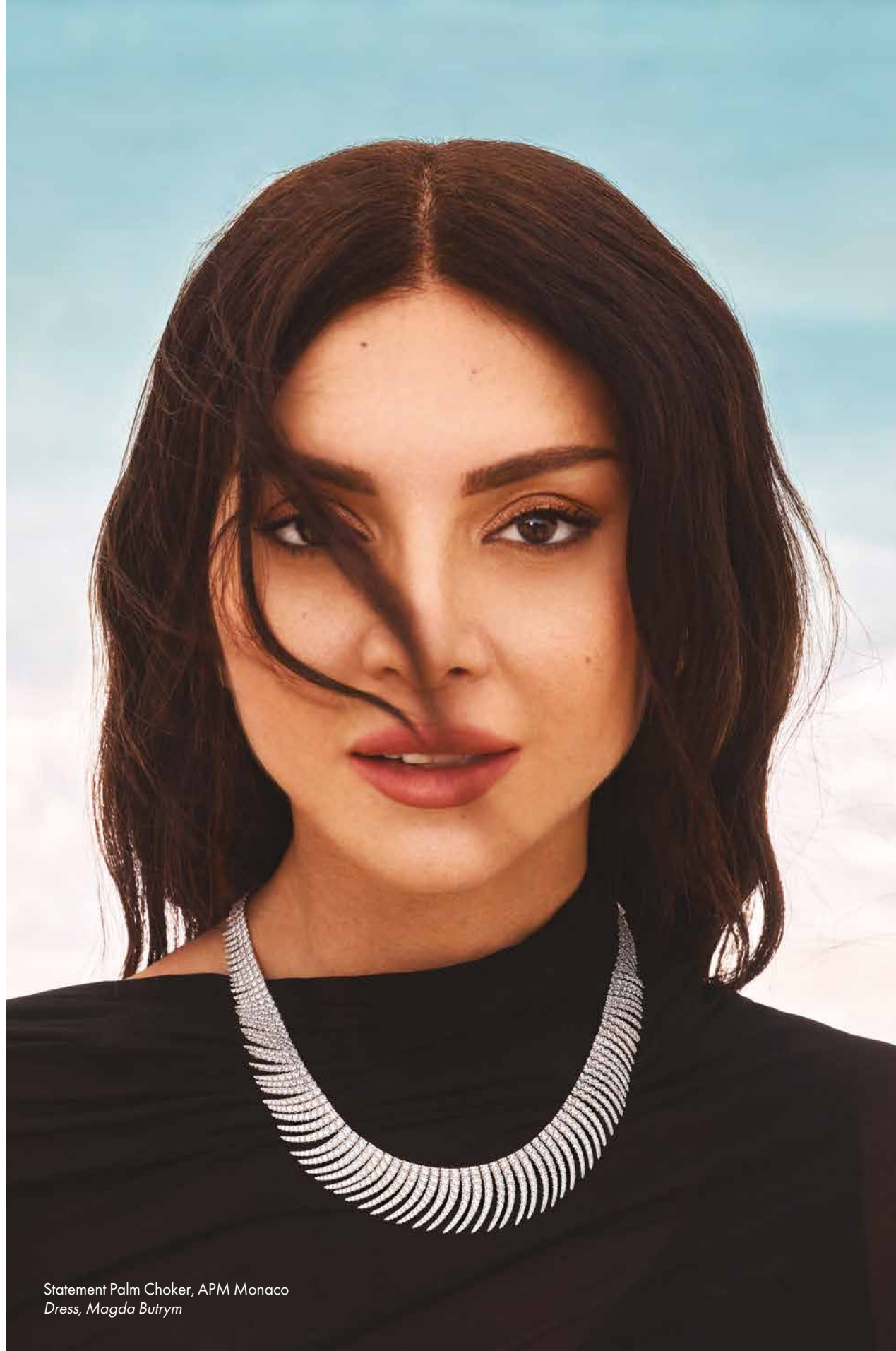
SOFT POWER

From blossom motifs to *palm-inspired cuffs*,
APM Monaco's pastel-hued jewels transform the
coast into a runway of *romantic rebellion*

Photographer AMER MOHAMAD

Stylist POLINA SHABELNIKOVA

Statement Blossom Bracelet, Pearl
Blossom Ring, Statement Palm
Phalanx Ring, APM Monaco
Dress, Zimmerman



Statement Palm Choker, APM Monaco
Dress, Magda Butrym



Palm Stud Earrings & Ear Cuff,
Statement Palm Bangle, Statement Palm
Phalanx Ring, APM Monaco
Dress, Genny

Pastel Green Drop Choker,
Statement Pastek Green Drop
Earrings, Drop Ring, Pastel Green
Drop Bracelet, APM Monaco
Dress, Marmar Halim



Pastel Green Drop Bracelet, Drop Bracelet, Drop Ring,
Pastel Green Drop Ring, APM Monaco

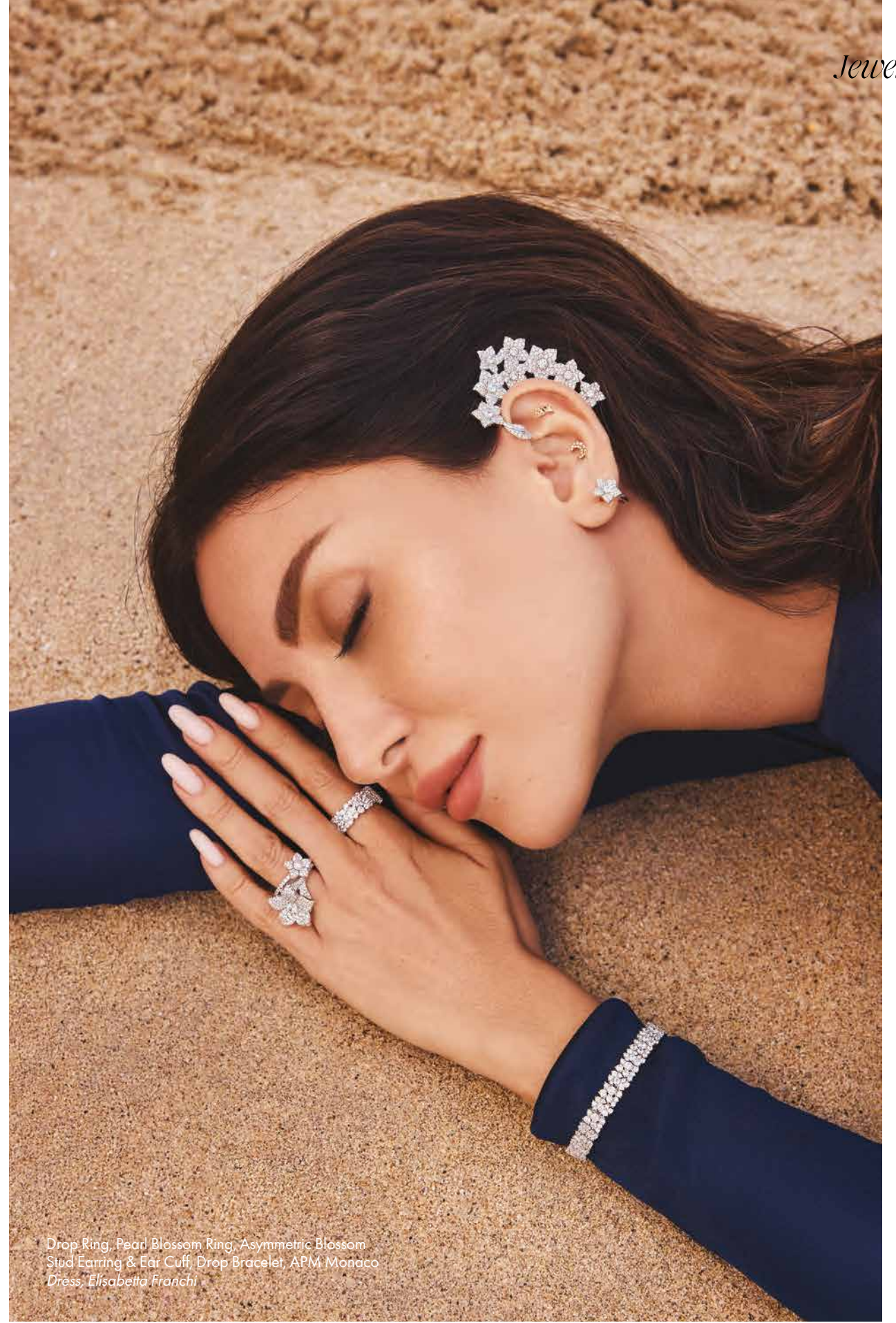


Statement Blossom Choker,
Pearl Blossom Ring, Drop Ring,
APM Monaco
Swimsuit, Coat Max Mara



Jewelry

PHOTOGRAPHER: AMER MOHAMAD, STYLIST: POLINA SHABELNIKOVA, HAIR: IVAN KUZ, MAKEUP: JEAN
KAROUI, LOCATION: NIKKI BEACH SPA & RESORT, TALENT: NATHALIE FANI



Drop Ring, Pearl Blossom Ring, Asymmetric Blossom
Stud Earring & Ear Cuff, Drop Bracelet, APM Monaco
Dress, Elisabetta Franchi



With cutting-edge materials, exquisite complications, and the artistry of renowned Swiss and Italian Maisons, LVMH Watch Week sets the stage for the future of luxury timepieces.

Crafting Time

Bulgari

Bulgari Serpenti Seduttori Automatic

Bulgari is shaking up the Serpenti collection with a bold new evolution, blending iconic elegance with revolutionary horology. Introducing the Serpenti Seduttori Automatic, this striking timepiece takes inspiration from the ancient symbol of the serpent – representing eternal renewal – and fuses it with Bulgari's signature craftsmanship. Unveiled in 2025, the Year of the Snake in the Chinese zodiac, it marks a new chapter for the Maison, showcasing their first-ever in-house automatic movement for Serpenti.

Powered by the new Lady Solotempo movement, the Serpenti Seduttori wraps around the wrist like a second skin. Its sleek, flowing design is highlighted by dazzling diamond accents and a transparent sapphire case back, offering an irresistible glimpse at the hypnotic oscillating weight. Seven serpent-inspired scales bring

the concept of perpetual renewal to life with every turn of the wrist. But it's not just about looks. The Serpenti Lady Solotempo brings the perfect balance of technical brilliance and sensual allure. The case contours are refined, while the cabochon-cut rubellite crown adds an unmistakable touch of femininity, making it as much a statement of style as it is a feat of engineering.

Bulgari's in-house expertise shines through in the BVS100 movement, which follows in the footsteps of previous masterpieces like the 2020 Tourbillon and 2022 Piccolissimo. The result? A watch that transforms the Serpenti icon into a symbol of both timeless beauty and modern sophistication – inviting the wearer into a world where horology meets artistry in perfect harmony.



Hublot

Spirit of Big Bang Chronograph

When Hublot unveiled the Spirit of Big Bang in 2014, they shocked the watch world with a bold move: ditching the iconic round case in favor of a daring barrel shape. It was a revolutionary design choice, yet unmistakably Hublot—innovative and rebellious. Fast forward to today, and the Spirit of Big Bang Chronograph is pushing boundaries once again, but this time with vibrant colored ceramics that were once exclusive to the round Big Bang collection.

For the first time ever, the Spirit of Big Bang comes in three new colorways – Sand Beige, Dark Green, and Sky Blue. Limited to just 200 pieces each, these watches combine bold aesthetics with Hublot's signature craftsmanship. The colored ceramics aren't just about looks, either: they're hypoallergenic, lightweight, and scratch-resistant, with a universal appeal that makes them just as perfect for men as they are for women.

Under the hood, the Spirit of Big Bang Chronograph is powered by the HUB4700, an automatic skeleton chronograph movement that's a direct descendant of the legendary El Primero—one of the world's first high-frequency integrated chronograph calibres. With modern upgrades like a low-friction silicon escape wheel, this movement offers precision and innovation that's visible from both the open dial and the sapphire case back.

The attention to detail doesn't stop at the movement. The dials match the cases in perfect harmony, with chronograph counters, hands, and hour markers all color-coordinated to match the ceramic tones. And the rubber straps? They feature a black base with a central colored inlay, creating a sleek, seamless design. It's a stunning fusion of craftsmanship and cutting-edge materials, proving once again that Hublot doesn't just follow trends – it sets them.





Tag Heuer Carrera Chronograph

TAG Heuer is stepping up the game with a stunning new take on its legendary Carrera Chronograph. The latest release is a precious edition that blends the precision and performance TAG Heuer is known for with a dose of pure luxury. Two breathtaking designs – the signature blue and a soft, powdery pink – bring a fresh and elegant twist to the iconic Carrera collection, making it the ultimate fusion of dynamic energy and sophisticated craftsmanship.

Since its debut in 1963, the Carrera has set the bar for wristwatch chronographs, loved by both racing enthusiasts and watch aficionados for its ultra-legible dial and precision engineering. Now, to mark six decades of excellence, TAG Heuer takes the Carrera to new heights with an updated glassbox design. The curved sapphire crystal isn't just for looks—it enhances visibility and honors the innovative spirit of the original Carrera while blending in modern advancements.

What's truly dazzling here is the addition of a diamond-set flange and chaton diamond indexes. The diamonds, totaling 0.45 carats, add a level of luxury that catches the eye from every angle, ensuring the



watch's brilliance never goes unnoticed. The dial, with its circular-brushed finish and bi-compax layout, provides a perfect balance of aesthetics and function. Rhodium-plated hands and a discreet date window at 6 o'clock keep everything legible and precise, while the 11 chaton diamonds, totaling 0.107 carats, further elevate the Carrera's iconic elegance.

The watch's straps bring the whole package together. The blue version pairs with a dark blue alligator leather strap, while the pink version gets a matching calfskin leather strap – both with an interchangeable mechanism to switch up your style. And for extra versatility, the Carrera Chronograph also offers options with white or gray alligator straps. It's a luxurious, feminine update to a true classic, proving once again that TAG Heuer's legacy is all about timeless elegance with a modern edge.



Tiffany & Co. Bird on a Rock Full Pavé Diamond Watch

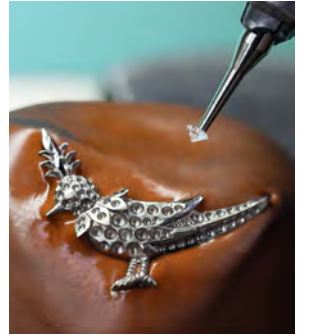
Tiffany & Co. has taken its iconic Bird on a Rock to new heights at the 2025 LVMH Watch Week, unveiling a breathtaking new interpretation that combines high jewelry and horological mastery. The latest creation, presented in a dazzling 18k white gold case, is a true showcase of Tiffany's craftsmanship and Jean Schlumberger's legacy. The Bird on a Rock watch reimagines one of Schlumberger's most beloved designs – the 1965 brooch – with a twist that brings it to life on the wrist.

The standout feature of this piece is the diamond-encrusted bird, which perches on the rotating outer ring of the dial. As the wearer moves, the bird comes to life, spinning with every gesture of the wrist – capturing the whimsical spirit of Schlumberger's original creations. Each bird is hand-sculpted from gold, set with diamonds, and finished with a pink sapphire eye. The meticulous process takes over 24 hours to complete, ensuring that every detail is perfection.

The outer ring of the dial, set with 30 baguette aquamarines, sparkles with over 3 total carats. These stones are invisibly set to amplify their radiant blue hue, adding a mesmerizing depth to the design. The dial's center is snow-set with 204 diamonds, creating a shimmering effect that lights up from every angle. All of this is framed within a 36mm case, which features 366 round brilliant diamonds totaling 2.94 carats.

Artisans also crafted an ingenious ball-bearing mechanism that allows the outer ring to rotate freely, syncing with the natural movement of the wrist. The case-back, engraved with a sunburst pattern inspired by Tiffany's Floral Arrows brooch, is sprinkled with even more diamonds, showcasing the House's attention to detail from every angle.

This Bird on a Rock watch is powered by a high-precision Swiss quartz movement, ensuring flawless timekeeping. It's a truly spectacular piece – a perfect blend of Tiffany's rich heritage and cutting-edge watchmaking, making it the ultimate symbol of joy, elegance, and movement.



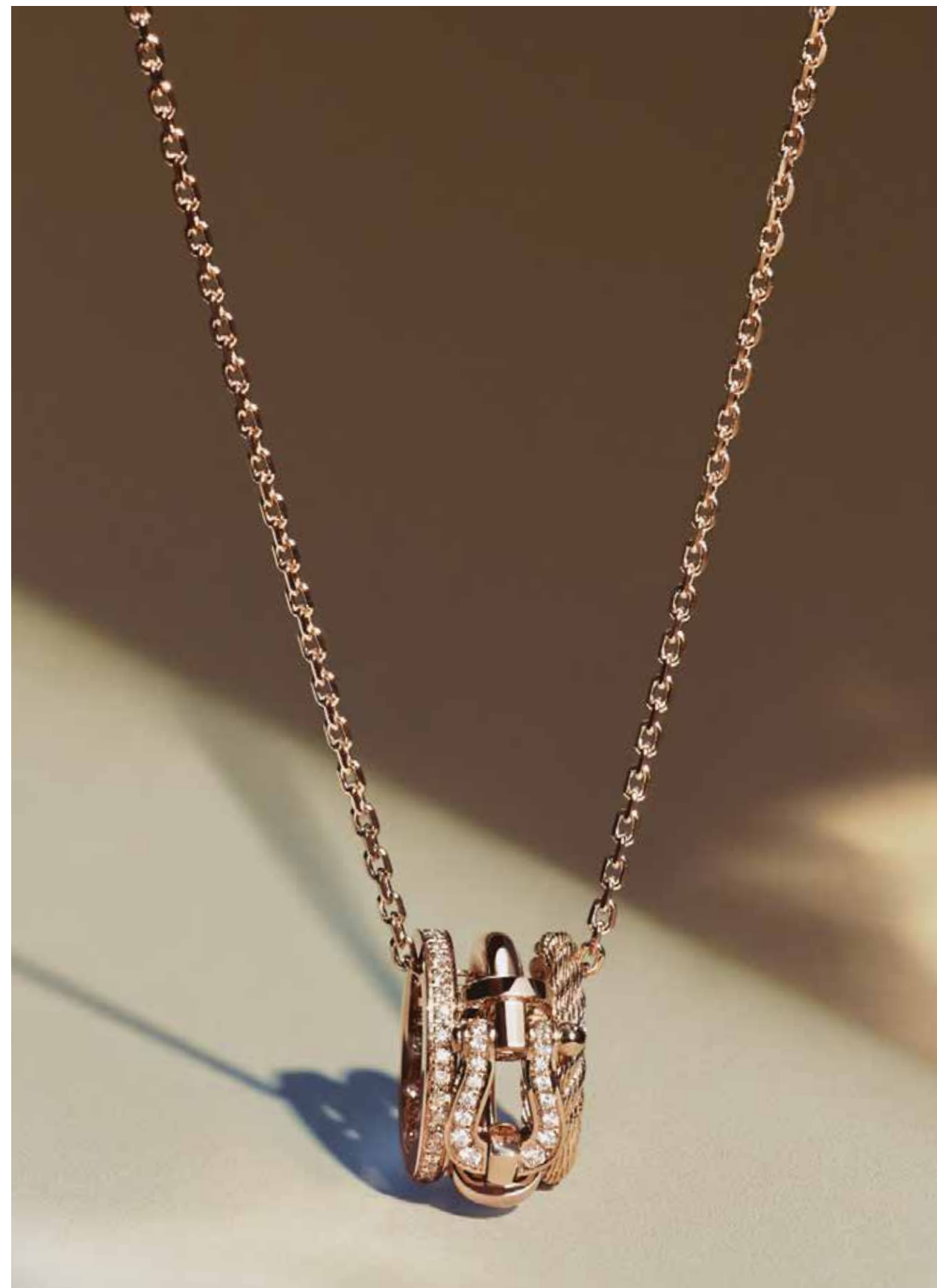


In the world of luxury jewelry, few pieces hold the iconic status of FRED's Force 10 collection. Since its inception nearly 60 years ago, the collection has captivated with its signature design – a striking combination of a cable and buckle, evoking the bold and visionary spirit of FRED's founder, Fred Samuel. This design, born from a shared passion for sailing and the sea, has grown into a timeless emblem of courage and determination. In 2025, FRED introduces Force 10 Rise, a reimagined chapter in this legendary collection, combining its rich history with a fresh, feminine twist emphasizing the modern woman's inner strength and ability to rise above challenges with grace, elegance, and perseverance.

The centerpiece of Force 10 Rise is the evolution of the iconic cable and buckle motif, now enhanced with diamond pavé details. This striking combination of diamonds and gold creates a beautiful contrast between the organic curves of the cable and the geometric sharpness of the buckle. The addition of these diamonds brings a new level of refinement, transforming the familiar design into something fresh and modern while still honoring its classic roots. The result is a bold, graphic aesthetic that captures both the timeless elegance of the original collection and the dynamic energy of the new pieces.

The Art of REINVENTION

A modern twist on an iconic motif, Force 10 Rise brings a new energy to FRED's iconic collection, inspiring women to embrace their inner strength and style





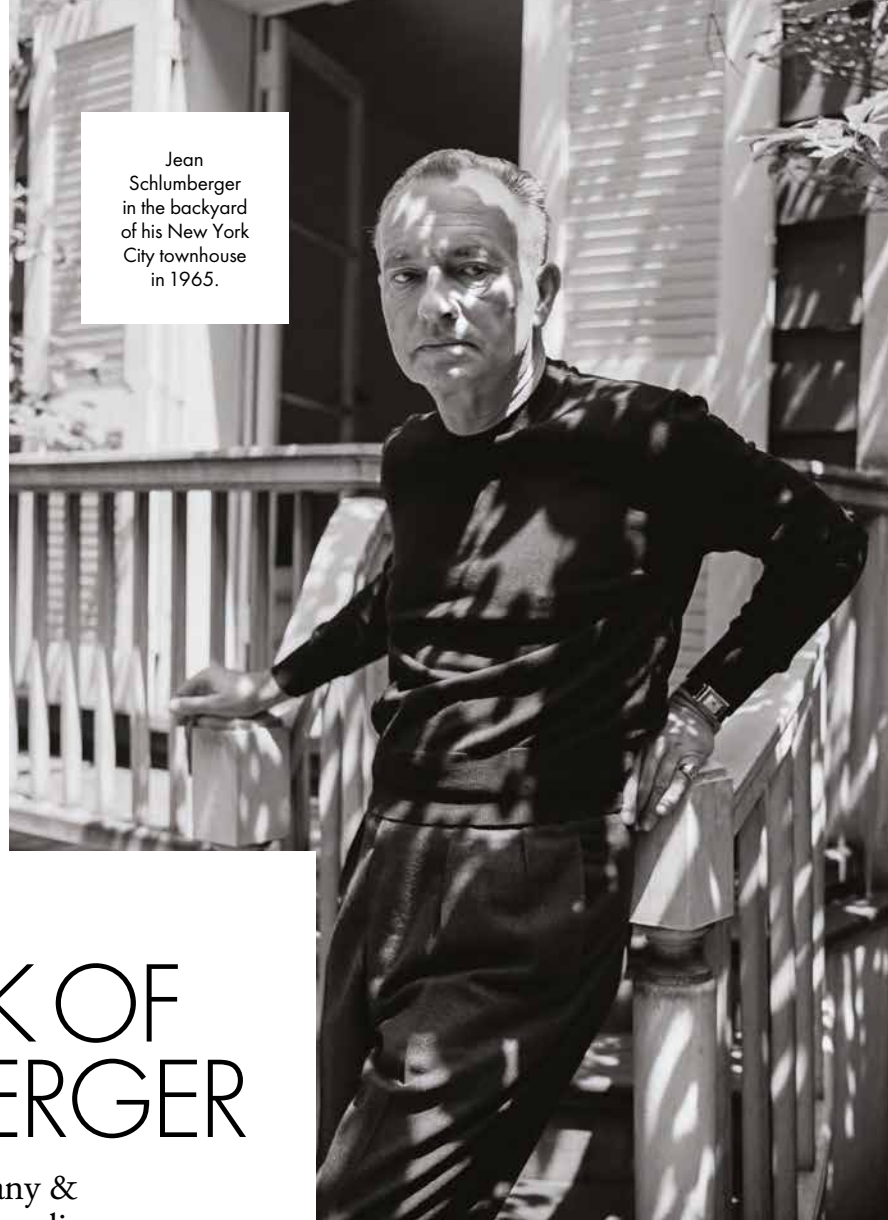
Among the standout pieces is a bold band ring, which makes a striking statement on the finger. With its graphic design and diamond pavé accents, the ring exudes confidence and strength. Whether worn solo or stacked with other pieces from the collection, it becomes a focal point of any ensemble. FRED's new necklace adds another layer of versatility to Force 10 Rise, offering a sleek, sophisticated look that can be worn alone or layered to create a cascading effect. Available in both pink and white gold, the necklace is a perfect expression of the collection's duality — a balance of power and grace. Earrings in Force 10 Rise continue the collection's modern reinterpretation of the classic design, with two distinct styles: half-moon and hoop earrings. These pieces offer a fresh, contemporary take on jewelry that can be mixed and matched to create unique, personalized looks.

Ultimately, Force 10 Rise is more than just jewelry — it's a statement of individuality. With this collection, FRED invites women to write their own stories, to create their own rules, and to wear their inner strength with elegance and confidence.

There are motifs, and then there are monograms - symbols so emblematic that they feel like signatures written in gold. For Jean Schlumberger, the legendary French designer who joined Tiffany & Co. in 1956, that symbol was the X. Born into a family of textile merchants in Alsace, France, Schlumberger was raised among threads and weaves. It's no surprise then that his most iconic motif - seen in his Sixteen Stone rings, Cooper bracelets, and Croisillon enamel bangles - resembles a cross-stitch. He once said, "I try to make everything look as if it were growing, uneven, organic," and his golden X does just that: it connects, binds, and breathes life into every piece it touches. While Schlumberger passed in 1987, his signature X still sparkles as a thread tying past to present, love to legacy.

© BRUCE DAVIDSON / MAGNUM PHOTOS

Jean Schlumberger in the backyard of his New York City townhouse in 1965.



THE MARK OF SCHLUMBERGER

Jean Schlumberger by Tiffany & Co. - The Signature X, Threading Generations *with Love*



First introduced in 1959, the Sixteen Stone ring began as a wedding band - 16 diamonds held together by a series of Schlumberger's golden stitches. Today, that same ring has been reimagined for all genders, slimmer and stackable, but still carrying the message of enduring connection.



The Sixteen Stone Watch brings the signature X motif into sharper focus for a modern way to wear a classic.

Then there's the Cooper bracelet, designed in 1956 and named after the wife of actor Gary Cooper, with nearly 1,000 pavé diamonds stitched together by bold X links.



And the Croisillon bangles? They've made their way from Jackie Kennedy's wrists into the modern jewelry canon. Each enameled bangle - requiring three days of craftsmanship - ends with an X as a sign off.



ASEEL *UN*SCRIPTED

ASEEL OMRAN BRINGS CHARISMA, PRESENCE, AND UNDENIABLE STAR POWER TO EVERY PERFORMANCE. THE MULTI-HYPHENATE TALENT - CELEBRATED FOR HER SOULFUL VOCALS, COMPELLING SCREEN ROLES, AND STANDOUT FASHION - IS ONE OF THE MIDDLE EAST'S MOST INFLUENTIAL CREATIVES. BETWEEN FILMING A NEW EGYPTIAN DRAMA AND MAKING WAVES ON THE GLOBAL FASHION CIRCUIT, THE SAUDI TRAILBLAZER FRONTS OUR CARTIER-CLAD COVER SHOOT AND OPENS UP ABOUT DREAM ROLES, BEAUTY RITUALS, HER LOVE FOR BOLD JEWELRY AND WHAT IT TRULY MEANS TO BE A MODERN ARAB WOMAN IN THE SPOTLIGHT.

Photographer AMER MOHAMAD
Stylist & Creative Director POLINA SHABELNIKOVA

Clash De Cartier Earrings In Yellow Gold, Clash De Cartier Necklace In
Rose Gold, Clash De Cartier Bracelet In Rose Gold Cartier Jewelry
Dress, Max Mara





Clash De Cartier Earrings In Yellow Gold, Clash De Cartier Ring In Rose Gold, Clash De Cartier Ring In Yellow Gold, De Cartier Bracelet In Yellow Gold, De Cartier Bracelet In Rose Gold Cartier Jewelry Vest, Magda Butrym





Clash De Cartier
Necklace In White
Gold, Clash De Cartier
Ring In Rose Gold With
Chrysoprase
Cartier Jewelry
Dress, Alexander
Arutyunov; Jacket,
Badibanga



Clash De Cartier Earrings
In White Gold, Clash De
Cartier Earrings In Rose
Gold, Clash De Cartier
Necklace In Pink Gold
Cartier Jewelry
Top, pants, Kristina
Fidelskaya, shoes,
Guiseppe Zanotti

Clash De Cartier Earrings In Yellow Gold, Clash De Cartier Ring In Rose Gold, Clash De Cartier Bracelet In Yellow Gold, Clash De Cartier Bracelet In Rose Gold.
Top, skirt, Tom Ford



Clash De Cartier Earrings In Yellow Gold, Clash De Cartier Necklace In Rose Gold, Clash De Cartier Ring In Rose Gold With Chrysoprase, Clash De Cartier Bracelet In Rose Gold Cartier Jewelry.
Top, Jacquemus.



SITTING WITH... ASEEL

Do you remember your first time on stage? The first time I stepped onto the stage was at the age of 13 when I presented a children's program on Bahrain TV. The second time was in 2005 when I participated in the Gulf Star program, and that was when I sang for the first time in front of judges, an audience, and cameras. I will never forget that moment.

What song of yours feels closest to your heart? I worked on a lot of songs a while ago, when I was more active in singing. But the song that immediately comes to mind when someone asks about my songs is "Tawbah," which was released in 2011.

Acting or singing - what's your first love? My first love is acting, knowing that the first thing I did in my life was sing. But I love it when I sing and act at the same time. The only place I can do both is in theatrical performances. In the Riyadh season, I performed theatrical works. What makes me love the theater is that I can sing, act, and dance at the same time.

How has filming in Egypt inspired you lately? I started acting at a young age, but all the years I've acted abroad don't compare to acting in Egypt, nor does the period I spent there. This is due to the long history of art and acting in Egypt. The public has a taste for art, and the time I worked in Egypt taught me and made me fall in love with acting even more.

Tell us about your role in "The Tale of Daye's Family" movie.

How did you prepare for "Lam El Samasya" series? The most beautiful experience was "Daye", which is a wonderful movie that I eagerly awaited its release in cinemas. "Lam El Shamsya" was the most difficult in term of preparation. In these series, we are not only actors, but we are also spreading an awareness message and we have a great responsibility to convey the topic of child molestation in a correct and realistic way. This is a very delicate topic. We worked on our roles and on the psychological aspect, as the psychological state of the child and the parents when molestation occurs was explained. We needed to raise awareness before conveying the scene to the people. The preparation was very difficult and tiring.

Clash De Cartier Earrings In White Gold, Clash De Cartier Earrings In Rose Gold, Clash De Cartier Necklace In Pink Gold, Cartier Jewelry
Top, Kristina Fidelskaya

What's the biggest shift you've seen in Saudi entertainment?

The changes that have taken place in Saudi Arabia are very big and have taken place in a short period of time. The biggest change, and one that was a dream come true, was to have festivals that focus on cinema and theater. When the movie "Daye" was shown at the Red Sea Film Festival, I couldn't believe I was walking the red carpet in Saudi Arabia at the opening of a major film festival, and my film was part of it. This was the biggest and most beautiful step. And the best is yet to come.

Cartier on set - how does jewelry influence your character? Jewelry reflects a woman's personality, without a word being uttered. Sometimes, jewelry that is bold and colorful shows people that you are strong and confident. Sometimes, it is quiet and reflects a part of your personality. I feel that a woman's mood every day is revealed by her jewelry.

How would you describe your personal style in three words? Simple, chic and practical.

What beauty secret do you swear by? If you had asked me this question five months ago, my answer would have been different. But today, after four months of work and travel, I can say that nothing affects your beauty like adequate sleep and rest. Along with skincare products, of course, and healthy eating, the key remains sleep and exercise.

How do you stay grounded with 6M+ followers? For me, the more followers I have, the more responsibility I feel. And that's what keeps me grounded. I thank God, because being loved by so many people isn't easy. With more followers comes more love – and people become more positive about you, your posts, and what they learn from you. This makes me feel even more humble and simple.

How has your Saudi heritage shaped your artistry? Saudi Arabia means everything to me. Everything about it inspires me - whether it's the stories, the heritage, the colors, the traditions, or the people. At the same time, it's a big responsibility. When I carry the name of a country, I represent it everywhere I go. So for me, Saudi Arabia is both an inspiration and a responsibility. I always try to show a beautiful image of my country. Also, the fast changes and development happening in the Kingdom inspire me to keep growing and improving myself.

You've worked with UNHCR since 2019 - why is that cause personal to you? Working with UNHCR is one of the most beautiful things that's happened in my life. The refugee issue is very close to my heart. I believe that if I have a voice and can influence people, I should use it to support this cause. It's the least I can do. Giving has a big meaning for me – it adds value to my work and makes me feel proud of what I do.

What's one message you want young Arab women to hear? There's so much I want to say, but I'll keep it to one message I wish someone had told me earlier - or that I had understood sooner. As women, we live under a lot of pressure to look or act a certain way, to fit society's expectations. My message is: you can't please everyone. It's simply impossible. So think about yourself - are you happy with who you are, even if you're different? What matters is that you're satisfied with your own image. Don't lose yourself trying to make others happy, and don't be afraid to stay true to who you are.

TALENT ASEEL OMRAN; PHOTOGRAPHER AMER MOHAMAD; STYLIST/CREATIVE DIRECTION POLINA SHABENIKOVA; MAKEUP ARTIST EMILY CLAYTON; HAIR STYLIST MARIAM OSMANOVA *KAWAICATWIGS FOR WIGS; LOCATION BICKBOSS





EMBRACING MOTHERHOOD

In a heartfelt tribute to *Mother's Day*, Kika Saab opens up about the love, lessons, and strength that define her journey - at home, in the spotlight, and beside her children.

Photographer MOHAMAD SEIF Makeup BASSAM FATTOUH

Hair WASSIM MORKOS

Kika is wearing @ELIESAABWORLD

For Kika Saab, motherhood was more than a life change – it was a calling. Once immersed in the world of finance, her life took a tender turn with the arrival of her daughter, Sophia. Now, as a mother of two, wife, and member of one of fashion's most celebrated families, Kika shares how she's found purpose in presence, strength in vulnerability, and meaning in every moment. She also discusses the influence of being part of the iconic Saab fashion family on her personal style and her supportive role alongside her husband, Elie Jr., in their shared endeavors.

Motherhood is a profound journey. How has it changed you as a person? Before having children, I was fully dedicated to my career as a financial consultant. I planned to take maternity leave and return after 6 months, but when Sophia was born, my priorities naturally shifted. I became deeply hands-on, cherishing every moment with her and fully immersed myself in motherhood. As time passed, I found immense fulfillment in being present for her and my family, embracing this new chapter with the same dedication and passion I once brought to my career. Motherhood has been the most profound and transformative journey of my life. It has deepened my sense of empathy, compassion, and patience in ways I never imagined. It has given me a sense of responsibility – not just for my children, but for the kind of person I want to be. No matter how tough life gets, motherhood teaches us to rise with strength and resilience, because our children look to us for love, guidance, and unwavering support. They become our greatest motivation, reminding us every day that we are capable of more than we ever thought possible.

Motherhood has given me a newfound appreciation for my own mom. She has always been more than just my mother – she is my role model and the best example of what it means to be a loving, devoted parent. I have come to truly understand

the sacrifices she has made for us and for the family. No matter the challenges she faced, she always carried herself with strength and a warm smile, reminding us to see the good in every situation. Her kindness, her strength, resilience, and support are qualities I deeply admire, and I feel incredibly grateful to have her as my guide through this journey.

What has been the most rewarding part of being a mother? And the most challenging? When I look at my children and see how they behave both in private and in public, it fills me with great pride. As parents, we come to realize just how crucial our active involvement in their lives shapes them to reflect our beliefs, values, and discipline. I'm truly amazed that, despite their young age, they can accompany us to fashion weeks, shows, and meetings without causing a scene or misbehaving. This small example reassures me that our consistent effort and presence truly pay off. We always take the time to talk to them, explain things, and help them understand the world around them.

Raising my children and shaping their character is one of my biggest responsibilities. Finding the right balance between being a parent and a friend isn't always easy, especially in today's world, where kids are more exposed. But with patience and understanding, I do my best to guide them, helping them grow into kind, confident, and grounded individuals. It's not always simple, but seeing them grow makes it all worthwhile.

One of the hardest things I've faced, especially after losing my father, has been keeping my composure and controlling my emotions in front of my children. This past year has tested me in ways I never imagined; I had to be their source of strength when I needed strength, their support when I needed support, and their caregiver when I longed for care myself. But through it all, I was never alone. My extremely supportive husband and my extraordinary mother – who found the strength to be both parents in one – helped me navigate this difficult time. And above all, the love of my children became my greatest remedy, giving me the courage to keep moving forward.

Your life is quite public – how do you navigate motherhood

while being in the spotlight? Elie Senior and Claudine have embraced me as their own daughter. They guided me, encouraged me and gave me the confidence needed to be under the spotlight and to be actively present next to Elie Jr. and be the supportive wife that I thrive to be. Their love and mentorship have played a vital role in helping me thrive under the spotlight..

Being in the spotlight doesn't change who I am. Whether in public or private I remain true to myself both as a woman and as a mother. While balancing public events and travel with the demands of motherhood can be challenging, I am fortunate to have a strong support system from both my family and Elie's.

I am truly grateful for the flexibility to bring my children along when I travel, allowing them to explore new environments while ensuring their safety and comfort as well as being surrounded by a strong support network of my mother-in-law and Elie's family. Alternatively, when I need to leave them at home, they are in the loving care of my mother and family, maintaining their routine and discipline.

Having my mother and mother-in-law by my side is a blessing. Their love, care, and shared values provide the same warmth and stability for my children as I do.

Being in the spotlight also means setting clear boundaries, protecting my privacy, and prioritizing my family's well-being. Ultimately, it's about making thoughtful decisions, staying rooted in my values, and ensuring my children feel secure, no matter where I am.

Do you find it challenging to keep your children's lives private in the age of social media? I find it challenging, especially in today's world where social media is beyond our control. Our children have their own lives – with their school friends, outings or birthday parties – and we can't always control what others capture or share. As a mother, the one thing I can control is the decision to share certain aspects of their lives, always being mindful of their privacy and boundaries. I'm very hands-on in protecting them, ensuring that what's shared is done thoughtfully, and that their personal space remains respected both online and in their everyday lives.

How do you divide parenting responsibilities with Elie Jr., especially given his demanding role? Parenting, for us, is not about dividing responsibilities, but about complementing each other and bringing our unique strengths to raising our children. Despite Elie's busy schedule, when he's home, he gives his family his undivided attention, especially during the time he spends with the kids. What matters is not about the quantity of time, but the quality.

When our eldest was younger, we had the privilege of including her in our day-to-day activities, but as she grew and started school, it became harder to disrupt her routine. To make up for that, we aim to create family memories during vacations and holidays, just like any family. Making those moments count is our ultimate priority.

I also believe that communication is key. Elie and I make sure to stay in constant conversation, keeping each other updated on what's happening in our lives. This open communication is crucial in our relationship, not only as parents but as a couple. It helps us support one another and ensures we are always aligned, no matter what challenges come our way.

Has being part of such an iconic fashion family influenced your own style or approach to fashion? Of course, being in a family with such a strong influence in fashion has shaped my sense of style. While I've always loved fashion, having Elie Saab as my father-in-law has certainly made me turn to him for advice. I'm lucky to have someone who

constantly guides me. Plus, With the brand's diverse offerings, I can find different styles for various occasions, whether it's for the day or night!

How do you support Elie Jr. in his role at Elie Saab? I don't just stand by Elie – I fully support him in every way. His passion for what he does is truly contagious. He has a dream, a vision, and an ambition that radiates from him, and it's impossible not to feel that energy. I get caught up in his enthusiasm, and together, as a family, we live this passion alongside him. My role is to be his solid support, helping him bring those dreams to life with the same dedication and drive he pours into his work.

For instance, when Elie was preparing for the 1001 Seasons in Riyadh, my children, and especially Sophia, witnessed the dedication and hard work Elie put into making it a success. Sophia, in particular, insisted on watching the show live on TV, not wanting to miss a single moment. When we were back home, she couldn't stop asking to watch the show over and over again. She also memorized all the lyrics and choreography, living the excitement and creativity of the event herself. It was remarkable to see how much of Elie's hard work and passion had made such an impact on her.

As a matter of fact, Elie's infectious positivity has transformed our home into a fashion place, where even our daughter Sophia, at just four years old, is already discussing the "tissu" of her dress. This is who we are – more than just his wife, as a family, we live and breathe the essence of the ELIE SAAB brand, embodying everything it represents with pride and passion.

As Elie's wife, my role is to be his rock, supporting him through every challenge and celebrating every triumph. I strive to create a peaceful space for him, where he feels supported and encouraged, allowing him to focus fully on his projects and passions.

What has been one of the proudest moments you would like to share? Being with Elie Jr. fills me with deep pride and gratitude. Finding a true-life partner is a great gift and the joy I feel in being with him is immeasurable. His values, his qualities, and the incredible person he is, have made every day of our partnership feel like a blessing.

What brings me even more joy is the wonderful family we've created. The love, support, and strong bond we share as a family are what I hold most dear. Raising our children and creating this life with Elie has been an extraordinary experience, and I truly treasure the strong connection we have as a family.

What's the best advice you would like to share to mothers in our region? The world has become so interconnected, with online platforms and parental guidance readily available everywhere, that it's easy to question our own approach to raising our children. Personally, I encourage mothers to trust their inner voice, which comes from their natural maternal instincts. Every child is unique, and no one understands a child's needs, temperament, and what's best for them quite like their own mother does. What works for one child may not work for another.

There is no universal guidebook for parenting, so mothers should avoid comparing themselves or their children to others. Every journey is unique, and it is this uniqueness that makes it truly beautiful. In the end, it's the love, connection, and authenticity we bring to each aspect of our lives that truly makes it meaningful.

To the wonderful mothers of our Arab region, your strength, love, resilience and dedication are truly inspiring. You play a crucial role in shaping the future in many ways. Stay true to your values and never underestimate the incredible impact you have on those around you.









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PHOTOGRAPHER: MOHAMAD SEIF @MSEIFPHOTOGRAPHY; MAKEUP: BASSAM FATTOUH @BASSAMFATTOUH; HAIR: WASSIM MORKOS @WASSIMMORKOS; KIKI IS WEARING @ETIESA8WORLD

ELLE

fashion

STRIKE A POSE...
Dress & Shoes,
Loewe; Earrings,
Jacquemus



Draped in Dreams...

FROM DELICATE FABRICS TO FLOWING FORMS, THIS
SEASON'S EDIT CAPTURES THE POETRY OF MOVEMENT
AND MODERN FEMININITY

PHOTOGRAPHER: AMER MOHAMAD; STYLIST: VASIL BOZHICOV; MODEL: OLGA LEFFERS; HAIR: ANASTASIA ALAWADI; LIGHTING ASSISTANT: YASIR ALI SHAH; LOCATION: PALAZZO VERSACE

Tweed

With intricate detailing, from iridescent tweed to jeweled embellishments, Chanel's Spring-Summer 2025 Ready-To-Wear collection celebrates bold textures and luxurious contrasts against the stunning backdrop of Dubai Safari Park

Photographer AMER MOHAMAD
Stylist & Creative Director KATE HAZELL

Blouse in pearl grey and
multicolor printed silk
charmeuse with pleated
collar and sleeves
embroidered with sequins,
Trousers in pearl grey
and multicolor printed
silk charmeuse,
Light green bag in grained
leather and metal,
All Chanel

Reimagined



Black and white jacket in fantasy
cotton tweed embellished with
feather braid and jeweled buttons,
Wraparound skirt-effect shorts in
black and white fantasy cotton
tweed embellished with feather
braid and a jeweled button,
All Chanel



Black jumpsuit in
iridescent tweed with
removable cape
embellished with
jeweled buttons,
Gold earrings in metal
and strass,
Black velvet and mirror
platform sandals,
All Chanel





Cuff bracelets in metal
and strass, Chanel



White and pale blue
blouson jacket in
fantasy cotton tweed
with removable feather
collar embellished
with jeweled buttons,
Silver and white
necklace in metal,
glass and strass,
All Chanel



Black leather jacket
with Peter Pan collar,
embellished with
jeweled buttons,
Black leather slit
bermuda shorts,
Black bag in fishnet,
shiny leather
and metal,
All Chanel

STYLIST • CREATIVE DIRECTOR: KATE HAZEL; PHOTOGRAPHER: AMER MOHAMAD; VIDEOGRAPHER: AUGUSTA QUAYNOR; MAKEUP: NAJETTE
EZZAKOURI; HAIR: SARTAH CASSIM AT MMG; MODEL: DIANA G AT FASHION LEAGUE LOCATION: DUBAI SAFARI PARK



Jacket in yellow, white
and black checkered
fantasy tweed, with tie-effect
and embellished
with jeweled buttons,
Trousers in yellow, white
and black checkered
fantasy tweed embellished
with a jeweled button,
Black and white platform
sandals in tweed
embellished with a metal
grid, 11.12 Bag in yellow,
black and white checkered
tweed and metal,
All Chanel

Jacket, Shirt, Skirt, Shoes, Bracelets
& Bag, All Saint Laurent
by Anthony Vaccarello



Phot: PphF MARIAKRYVOBOK3r TP XIOX TR ~r USI HX: ÉAROUCHEKOUFI

Pullover, Trousers, Hat, Bags &
Shoes, All Giorgio Armani



the
Bourgeois
edit

A uPr dr ^bTÚfúqXi power and refined sophistication, where
timeless luxury meets thewh^dFr]ÚPr X X] spirit

Shirt, Skirt, Sandals, Earrings
& Bags, All Schiaparelli



Coat, Dress, Shirt & Bags, All TOD'S



Pullover, Trousers, Shoes
& Bags, All Lanvin



Coat, Bag & Shoes, All Jacquemus





Trench Coat, Shoes & Bag, All Loewe

Jumpsuit & Bag, All Elie Saab



Suit & Bags, Loro Piana
Shoes, Lanvin



PHOTOGRAPHER: MARIA KRYVOROK; CREATIVE DIRECTOR & STYLIST: PAROUL CHERKOUF; MAKEUP: LILIA @BOZENA JANISW; AGENCY: MAKEUP; TATIANA GAGAYA @GIVENCHYBEAUTY; HAIR: NATALIA SEREDA @CARITAFANS; STYLIST ASSISTANT: KAJA ESSROUF; PRODUCTION: GRANT PC PARIS



Suit & Shirt, Zadig & Voltaire
Shoes & Bag, Roger Vivier
Hat, Maison Virginie Paris

Dress & Shoes, Loewe;
Earrings, Jacquemus

The Grand Reveal

*Statement kaftans and dresses sweep through a Palazzo,
merging heritage with modern grace*

Photographer AMER MOHAMAD *Stylist* VASIL BOZHILOV





Kaftan, Roksanida; Shoes, René Caovilla; Earrings & Bracelet, Vintage Dream



Jumpsuit & Bag, Hermès

Dress & Shoes, Versace



Dress & Bag, Etro; Shoes, Malone Souliers; Earrings & Necklace, Vintage Dream; Sunglasses, Karen Wazen



Dress, Bag &
Bracelet, Celine



Kaftan, Pucci; Shoes, Jimmy Choo;
Sunglasses, Bvlgari



Skirt, Jacket, Hat, Gloves, Bag & Bangle, Gucci



PHOTOGRAPHER: AMER MOHAMMAD @SHOOTMEAMER, STYLIST: VASIL BOZHILOV @VASILBOZHILOV, MODEL: OLGA JEFFERS, HAIR: ANASTASIA ANANWADI @ANASTASIANWADI, LIGHTING ASSISTANT: YASIR ALI SHAH @YASIR_ALI_SHAH, LOCATION: PALAZZO VERSACE, PRODUCER: AID SARR @AID_SARR



Dress & Bag, Fendi; Watch & Earrings, Tiffany & Co.

Bodysuit, Skirt & Lady Dior Bag, All Dior
Necklace, Pascale Monvoisin
Rings, Dior Joaillerie

A season of *romance begins* with a
wardrobe of carefree pieces that are
as fun as *they are sweet*

PRECIOUS

Photographer SOPHIE VAN DER PERRE
Stylist ALEXANDRA BERNARD

Twin Set, Skirt, Josephine Bag, Dôme Ring On The Right Index, All Celine Rings, Pascale Monvoisin



Coat & Sandals, Alaïa



Dress, Louis Vuitton
Earring, Pascale Monvoisin



Dress, Stella McCartney
Ariane-Necklace, Goosens
Bracelets, Samuel Francois Jewelry
Rings, Dior Joaillerie
Shoes, Roger Vivier

Top, Cardigan, Belted Skirt
& Etude Bag, All Prada



Dress, Miu Miu
Rings, Pascale
Monvoisin

Shirt, Trousers &
Necklace, All Chanel
Bra, Eres
Shoes, Roger Vivier
Cup, Heliotrope
Ceramics



Dress, Necklace & Shoes, All Gucci
Earrings & Rings, Pascale Monvoisin





Dress & Shoes, Chloé



Dress, Loewe
Circe Eashell Necklace
& Ariane Turquoise
Necklace, Goosens
Necklace With
Pendantstones & Rings,
Pascale Monvoisin
Bracelets, Samuel Francois
Jewelry



Jacket & Shorts, Isabel Marant
Ring, Pascale Monvoisin
Bracelets, Samuel Francois Jewelry



Suit, Necklace, Bracelets
& Belt, All Saint Laurent
Cherry Earring Worn
As A Brooch, Samuel
Francois Jewelry

Dress & Shoes, Rabanne
Rings, Pascale Monvoisin



PHOTOGRAPHER: SOPHIE VAN DER PERRE; STYLIST & FASHION DIRECTOR: ALEXANDRA BERNARD; ELLÉ INTERNATIONAL;
STYLIST ASSISTANT: WENDY VAN DER WERF; HAIR: LUCAS WATICHARD; DIGITAL TECHNICIAN: JOHN CHEVALIER
MAKEUP: LISA LEGRAND; AIRPORT AGENCY: HAIR: MARTIN FOSSECAIDER; AIRPORT AGENCY: MODEL: RIKKE ©
WOMEN MANAGEMENT; LIGHT ASSISTANT: LUCAS WATICHARD; DIGITAL TECHNICIAN: JOHN CHEVALIER

ELLE

beauty

BOLD HORIZONS
With a striking blend of floral and amber notes, eLVes Louis Vuitton captures a spirit of adventure and freedom. The fragrance is housed in a sleek, cylindrical bottle with a vibrant purple hue, complemented by a luxurious travel case crafted from black lambskin leather and Monogram canvas. Available from mid-April



Spring Awakening

CELEBRATE THE SEASON'S BEST AS WE EXPLORE THE LATEST BEAUTY TRENDS, MUST-HAVE PRODUCTS AND EXCLUSIVE INSIGHTS FROM TOP INDUSTRY EXPERTS

On our radar

We spy pretty pastels on the runways and we're craving to try out these saccharine-inspired looks for ourselves.



Finishing touches

Wondering how to use the new powder and mist in Kosas' Cloud Set? After makeup, apply the loose powder either all over the face or in the areas with the most shine. Then just spritz and watch the final glam come to life.



Glow baby glow

YSL Beauty's Make Me Blush Bold Blurring Blush is here to elevate your flush game. With 12 shades that build from sheer to intense, this silky, weightless blush blurs imperfections and lasts up to 24 hours – perfect for a flawless, all-day glow.

LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT

BY ELI REZKALLAH 2025 © PLASTIKSTUDIOS



Tonal tease

Life in color is always better and Asteri is bringing a rainbow of hues to brighten up ours. With Alchemy Shadowliner, eyeshadow and eyeliner are blended with color-shifting, trio-chromatic pigments that change with every angle. Get ready for color that adapts as you move!

Dial in

Looking for unfiltered, raw conversations about beauty standards, business and personal lessons? Dishing the beauty dirt is makeup mogul Huda Kattan who is bringing the real talk with her new podcast, Huda Hotline. Tune in on YouTube Shorts, Instagram and TikTok.



BEAUTY 101...
WITH SAIE
FOUNDER
LANEY
CROWELL

On living a clean, green life

When you build a brand around clean beauty and sustainability, people often ask, "What does that look like in real life?" The truth is, it's not always dramatic. It's made up of small choices, made every single day. At home with my family and while I'm at the Saie office, I've come to love my little rituals that feel both conscious and elevated. Maybe they'll inspire you, too.

The obvious one is that I always skip plastic whenever possible. At my favorite local coffee spot, I order without a lid – why sip through plastic when you don't have to? Recently at The Row's fashion week show, they served coffee in these stunning biodegradable bamboo cups by a Japanese brand called Ogata. It was such a perfect example of how sustainability can feel incredibly chic. I loved them so much I immediately ordered some to have in my kitchen at home.

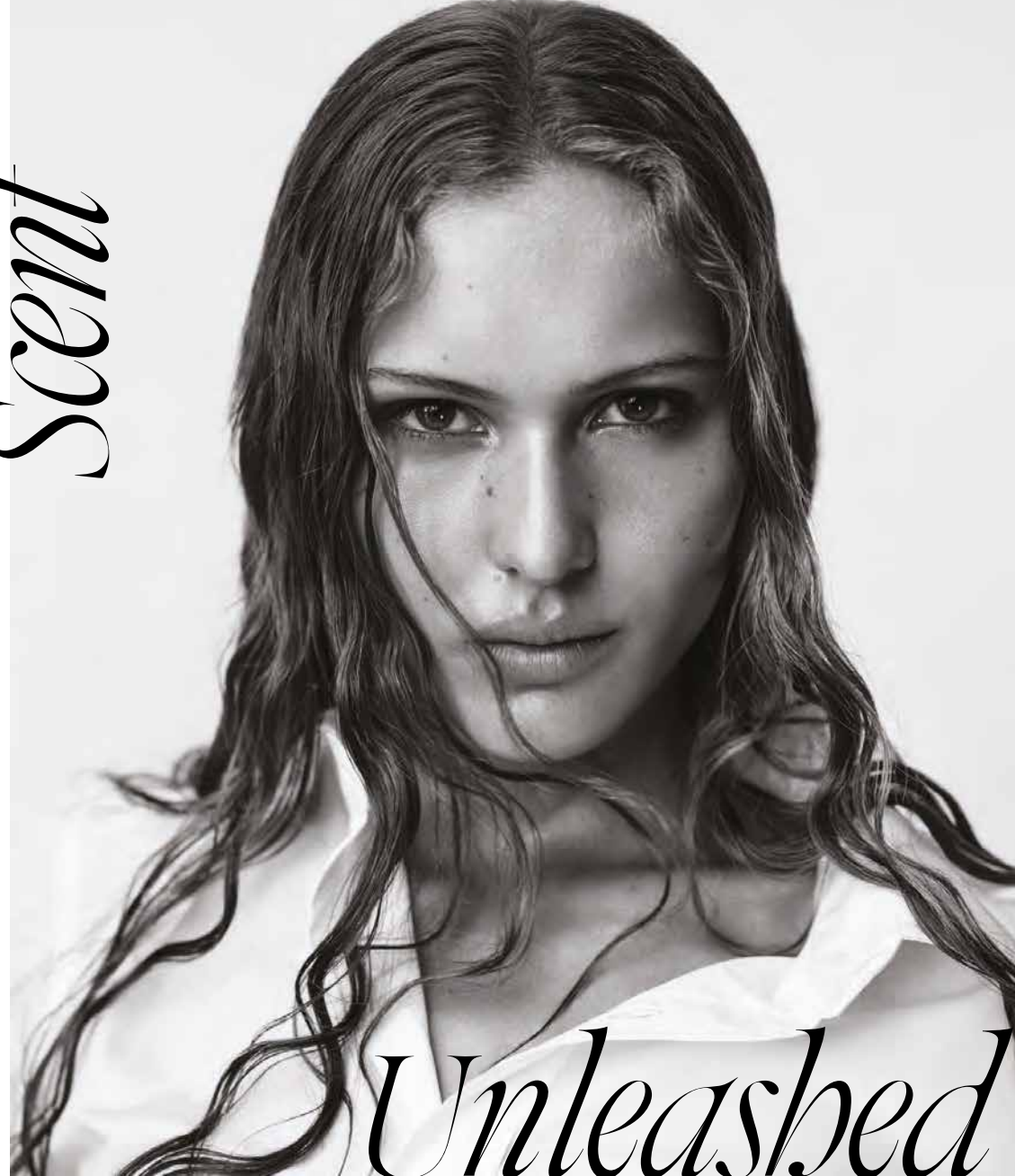
Speaking of The Row, the same philosophy applies to my wardrobe: I am intentional about choosing timeless, beautifully-made pieces over fast fashion. One of the most powerful things we can do for the planet is simply buy less. I wore these incredible pants and this perfectly cut sweater to their recent show, and I know they'll be in my closet for years. With any luck, my daughters will one day be fighting over them.

At Saie, we've never seen clean and sustainable as a tradeoff – they're part of what makes a product feel truly luxurious. For me, it's about easy, elevated formulas made with safe, effective ingredients that actually care for your skin. I love our Slip Tint Tinted Moisturizer, which is so hydrating and breathable, and is also packaged in a plant-based, bio-resin tube. I layer it over our Glowly Super Gel, which comes in a glass component designed to be taken apart and recycled. Thoughtful, sustainable, high-performance... it's all possible. And it's what makes a product feel special from start to finish.



Save the date

Drop everything – Louis Vuitton is finally launching makeup! Spearheaded by makeup legend Dame Pat McGrath, La Beauté Louis Vuitton arrives this autumn and will debut with 55 lipsticks, 10 lip balms and 8 eye palettes. This is one to set a calendar reminder for.



Get ready to fall in love with for her... again.

When Narciso Rodriguez drops a new fragrance, you know it's not just a scent – it's a mood. *for her* eau de parfum intense is no exception. The newest chapter in the iconic *for her* line, this fragrance cranks up the volume on everything you love about the original, giving it an even bolder, more seductive twist. At its core, *for her* eau de parfum intense celebrates the house's signature heart of musc, now amplified and wrapped in a tantalizing bouquet of white flowers and a rich, indulgent vanilla accord. Top notes of juicy peach and fresh Calabrian bergamot hit first, immediately catching your attention, but it's the heart where things get seriously captivating. A red spiderlily accord adds an unexpected floral edge, paired with the hypnotic intensity of musc, creating a fragrance that's

impossibly alluring and unforgettable. And the bottle? Intense, too. The iconic blush pink gets a bold update with a striking fuchsia hue, a visual nod to the fragrance's amplified power. It's all about the signature Narciso Rodriguez sleek, architectural form – now with a dose of serious attitude. It gets even more exciting: *For Her* Eau de Parfum Intense is made for layering. When combined with *for her* PURE MUSC, the two scents fuse together, enhancing that signature musc and taking the intensity to a whole new level. Think of it as your personal olfactory power move—more mystery, more allure, more you. Narciso Rodriguez isn't just launching a fragrance; he's introducing a new muse, too. Enter Angelina Kendall – the Sydney-born beauty who rose to fame during the pandemic and has since become the face of *for her*. Her authentic, effortless confidence is the perfect match for this fragrance that's all about bold femininity and timeless elegance. Shot by Mario Sorrenti, the campaign is an intimate portrayal of the *for her* woman in all her magnetic, multifaceted glory.



BEHIND THE NOTES...
WHEN A FRAGRANCE TURNS UP THE INTENSITY, YOU KNOW THERE'S A STORY BEHIND IT.

*Designer NARCISO RODRIGUEZ
& perfumer SONIA CONSTANT
on why they turned up the heat*

What was the vision and inspiration for *for her* eau de parfum intense? NR: Perfumer Sonia Constant took all of the beauty and grace that is for her and amplified it to create an intensely sensual scent. SC: The brief was to create a new olfactory variation – a more intense and modern version of *for her*, highlighting the sensuality of the line. The starting point was to build on the unique storytelling of the heart of musc and to expand the chypre signature of the line, modernizing it through the moss accord, and pushing it forward with passion, strength and sensuality.

How would you describe the fragrance in three words? NR: The three words I would use to describe the new fragrance are warm, seductive and intense. SC: Force. Passion. Sensuality.

What emotions would you like to awaken in those who wear it? NR: To evoke a sense of unique sensuality and grace in those who wear it. These were the same feelings and emotions I wanted to evoke when I first created *for her*. SC: I created this new fragrance to give strength and self-confidence – to give every woman the power to reveal the most audacious side of her personality.

What kind of woman do you imagine wearing *for her* eau de parfum intense?

NR: I imagine a strong, self-possessed and sensual woman. SC: This new fragrance will be loved by the aficionados of the line looking for more intensity in order to maximize the iconic essence of *for her*, but it will also be loved by anyone who is intrigued by the new intensity trend.



The future of BEAUTY

Discover how Sisley's plant-driven innovations are transforming luxury skincare – with CEO Philippe d'Ornano revealing why *Sisley is the beauty game-changer* you need.

How have your parents, Hubert and Isabelle d'Ornano, influenced Sisley's identity and success, especially with its commitment to plant-based, high-performance cosmetics? My family has been in the cosmetics industry for over 200 years, starting with my grandparents in the 1930s. My father and uncle went on to create a perfume brand and another skincare brand, both of which were well-established. Sisley, however, started with a focus on new, promising research in skincare, rather than aiming to be a luxury brand. Our mission was always to create effective skincare and makeup and that happened even more so when we discovered how to use plants. What were the key moments in Sisley's journey that led to your focus on plant-based ingredients? In the 19th century, the rise of synthetic chemistry revolutionized the industry, becoming the new trend and being used in everything. In the 1940s and 50s, we began using more advanced technologies, including the electron



Mr Philippe d'Ornano,
Mme Isabelle
d'Ornano, Mme
Christine d'Ornano

microscope, which allowed us to extract active ingredients from plants. We can now extract between 100K and 200K actives from plants, which is incredible and changed our perspective, as a single plant is like a natural chemical factory. Between the 1960s and 70s, we discovered a new range of actives that showed great promise for cosmetics, leading us to explore further. Sisley has long championed the power of plants in skincare. Can you walk us through how your research teams identify and develop new botanical ingredients? At the end of the day, cosmetics is a very competitive market, and that's why Sisley has succeeded as a leader in skincare. Our research focuses on two main things: first, we don't want to take too long to create a product, and second, we don't limit ourselves when it comes to the cost of ingredients. The third factor is our expertise—we've been specialists in this field for years, and we work closely with our research team. Sisley remains one of the most iconic anti-aging creams. When we started working on it, we aimed to create a product that wouldn't require much layering, saving time for women by providing a complete solution in one product. Our second focus was on anti-aging, creating a global cream that would deliver better efficiency over 10 years. I fought with my parents about this, as the process was very expensive, and I didn't think about the price at the time. But when we launched it, it turned out to be a success, and my parents were finally happy.

How does this set Sisley apart from other luxury beauty brands? When I travel and meet people, they often praise Sisley as one of the best products, even though they find it expensive. Many are willing to invest in their skin and self-care. Our customers are so emotionally invested in Sisley that they often know more about our products than I do. This passion led us to expand into makeup, where we've become one of the top brands, offering high-quality, fun, and trendy

“IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO HAVE A MATURE APPROACH TO OUR INDUSTRY, WHICH MEANS PROVIDING EXCELLENT SERVICE AND SELLING THE RIGHT PRODUCTS TO THE RIGHT TARGET AUDIENCE”

products. We then ventured into haircare with our Hair Rituel line, applying the same approach. Finally, we launched fragrances, drawing from my family's artistic background, with scents like Eau du Soir and Izia Eau de Parfum becoming world-renowned. We have a great collection of high-end products, and we're also launching a new brand soon, though I can't reveal it just yet.

Middle Eastern consumers appreciate personalized beauty experiences and luxury skincare. How is Sisley catering to this market? It's very important to have a mature approach to our industry, which means providing excellent service and selling the right products to the right target audience. We've also developed Maison Sisley worldwide; we're opening a spa in Dubai in June and another in Qatar, which is currently in progress.

Having not been in the region for a while, how do you view the Middle Eastern market and consumer engagement? Do you think they are familiar with the brand? We operate in 10 countries, and I love visiting the teams to see how the market is developing, but managing everything abroad can be challenging. As for the Middle Eastern region, there's significant potential for

growth in skincare. This region values quality, and as skincare continues to develop, we can attract more customers to high-quality products. I also see a strong passion for makeup here. Even in Europe, people didn't prioritize self-care before COVID, but we saw a shift during the pandemic. Many turned to Sisley for skincare because they trusted the safety of our products. Perfume and haircare also saw major growth during this time. The region holds great potential because people are curious about beauty, cosmetics, and makeup.



Beauty, But Make it Viral

Marianna Hewitt and Lauren Ireland *transformed their passion* for beauty into *Summer Fridays*, a brand celebrated for its clean formulations and cult-favorite products



Clockwise from left: Cloud Dew Gel Cream Moisturizer, Jet Lag Mask, ShadeDrops Broad Spectrum SPF 30 Mineral Milk Sunscreen, SUMMER FRIDAYS Heavenly Sixteen All-in-One Face Oil, Dream Lip Oil, Jet Lag Skin Soothing Hydration Mist

been the best sellers, and why do you think they resonate so well with your audience? Our Jet Lag Mask, Lip Butter Balm, and ShadeDrops SPF are among our best sellers. We believe they resonate because they're multitasking, high-performance and easy to use. The Jet Lag Mask is a hydrating hero for all skin types and can be used as a mask, moisturizer, eye cream and so many more ways. Lip Butter Balm is the perfect everyday essential for soft, nourished lips, and ShadeDrops makes daily SPF application effortless and is a beautiful skincare prep step before makeup. Each of these products was developed with our community's needs in mind, which is why they've become everyday staples.

The Jet Lag Mask became an instant icon in skincare. What was the inspiration behind the Jet Lag collection, and how does each product complement the lifestyle of your customers? The Jet Lag Mask was inspired by our own travel schedules and the need for a skincare product that could instantly refresh tired, dehydrated skin. Over time, we expanded the Jet Lag Collection to include products that offer that same sense of hydration and revival, no matter where you are. Whether you're constantly on the go or just need a moment of self-care, these products are designed to restore and replenish your skin

effortlessly from eye patches, to a fine mist to refresh your makeup or a serum that we can't live without. **Can you tell us about the development of the Jet Lag Eye Patches? What makes them unique, and how do they fit into a modern beauty routine?** We wanted to take everything our community loves about the Jet Lag Mask and create an eye-specific treatment that instantly refreshes and hydrates. The Jet Lag Eye Patches are made in Korea and infused with skin-loving ingredients like glycerin, peptides and caffeine to depuff while delivering intense moisture. They fit perfectly into a beauty routine – whether you're prepping for makeup, unwinding at the end of the day, or giving your skin a boost after travel.

Summer Fridays is known for clean formulations and high-performance skincare. How do you approach innovation while maintaining your brand's ethos? Innovation is at the heart of everything we do, but we never compromise on our skincare ethos. We prioritize high-performance ingredients that deliver visible results, and we spend a

lot of time ensuring that each formula meets our standards. From concept to launch, we test and refine extensively, always thinking about how a product will enhance our customers' routines. Our goal is to create skincare that is as effective as it is enjoyable to use while being gently effective.

You've built a strong following in the Middle East. What do you love most about the Arab region, and how do you see Summer Fridays growing here? We love how passionate the community is about skincare and beauty. It's been incredible to see how our products have resonated, and we're so grateful for the love and support. We're excited to continue growing in the region, expanding our presence at retailers, and bringing more of our hero products to customers who appreciate gently effective skincare and hybrid makeup essentials.

What's next for Summer Fridays? Can we expect any exciting launches or expansions in the near future? We're always working on new innovations, and 2025 will be an exciting year for us! We have some incredible launches coming – expanding both our skincare and hybrid makeup products – and we're continuing to grow internationally. We can't wait for our community to experience what's next.

Pucker Up!

A few of our fave Lip Butter Balm shades...



In the ever-evolving beauty industry, few brands have made as significant an impact as Summer Fridays. Founded in 2018 by Marianna Hewitt and Lauren Ireland, both former content creators with a keen eye for skincare, the brand quickly gained a devoted following. Their debut product, the Jet Lag Mask, became an instant sensation, setting the stage for a line of products that prioritize clean, effective ingredients and luxurious formulations. As Summer Fridays continues to expand its global presence, including a growing community in the Middle East, we sat down with Marianna and Lauren to delve into their inspiration, challenges, and what's next for the brand.

What inspired you both to transition from content creation to launching Summer Fridays, and how has the journey evolved since? We've always been passionate about beauty and skincare, and through our years of content creation, we built a deep understanding of what consumers wanted – products that were effective, easy to use and felt like a little moment of self-care. When we launched Summer Fridays in 2018 with the Jet Lag Mask + Moisturizer, we set out to create skincare that fit into busy lifestyles while delivering real results. Since then, the journey has been incredible – we've expanded our assortment, grown our community globally, and stayed committed to creating products that people genuinely love and trust.

Which product do you feel was the turning point for Summer Fridays, the one that solidified the brand's success? Jet Lag Mask + Moisturizer was our first product, and it immediately resonated with customers, setting the tone for what Summer Fridays would become. But another major turning point for us was when we expanded our community's love of hydration and created our now best-selling Lip Butter Balm. It quickly became a staple for so many people, and its success solidified our presence in both skincare and lip care. Seeing how our community embraced it reaffirmed our brand ethos of creating effortless, effective products that seamlessly fit into daily routines. **Summer Fridays has several cult-favorite products. Which ones have**



JOY PURITY,
DEPURAVITA

REISHI, ANIMA MUNDI

SKIN FILTER,
THE NUE CO.

CHAI & ROSE
CHOCOLATE,
COSMIC DEALER

CELLULAR
HYDRATION,
ARTAH

ANTI-G-OX
BERRY, VIDA
GLOW

INNER
BEAUTY
TEA,
WILDER
BOTANICS

BEAUTY IN A
BOTTLE, DR.
NIGMA

CACAO +
REISHI,
ANCIENT
+ BRAVE

The self-love club

True love starts from within and the best way to feel good is easy – give your body all the good stuff it needs.

ELLE

culture

TIME TO SOAR...
Spring fever has us in the mood to explore!

Wide Open...

A LOOK AT THE ART, LITERATURE AND SOUNDS SPREADING AWARENESS AND BEAUTY

@AHMED@UNSPLASH



See

SAUDI FILM FESTIVAL FROM APRIL 17-23

Playing a crucial role to support, showcase and develop Saudi filmmakers, Saudi Film Festival in Dammam returns for its 11th season. During the week, they will showcase 68 screenings which will include feature, short and documentary films from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf. Along with that, there will be panel discussions, masterclasses and exclusive one-on-one sessions with some of cinema's most notable figures.



Play

I SAID I LOVE YOU BY SELENA GOMEZ AND BENNY BLANCO

Valentine's Day may be behind us, but the world's favorite couple has gifted us a romantic album we'll be playing on repeat. Both have shared different sides of their love story through their music so far, and it'll be exciting to see how their journey unfolds in future tracks. If the song titles are any indication, expect a mix of vulnerability, deep affection, and the pure joy of being in love. It's like a love letter they wrote together. Safe to say, we can't wait!

COMPILED BY SWATIJAIN



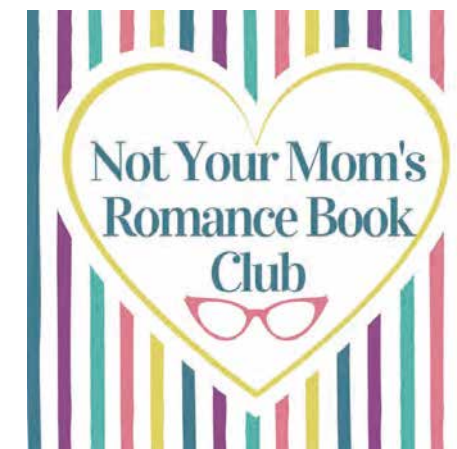
WATCH SEE PLAY

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

Watch

GAWDAR - ALF LEYLA W LEYLA - SEASON 2

After bingeing on all the dramas during Ramadan, we are not ready to let go just yet. Saving the best for last, is the time old story of One Thousand and One Nights that follows 'Gawdar' a fisherman whose life is entangled with supernatural forces trying to use him to unlock the Cave of the Sage and claim the Four Treasures. After ending the first season on a dramatic note, the second season continues the story from Nights 608 to 633. And joining the cast is Egyptian darling and ELLE Arabia cover star Tara Emad!



Listen

NOT YOUR MOM'S ROMANCE BOOK CLUB

Imagine reading your favorite steamy romance novel with your mom peering over your shoulder. Awkward, right? Well, that's exactly what this podcast is about! Ellen and her mom are diving into a mix of fun, swoon-worthy, and downright awkward romance novels. It's a listen that'll have you tuning in and, maybe, even picking up one of these books yourself!

Follow

SOME BLOOMING RECOMMENDATIONS OF INCREDIBLE WOMEN WHO WEAVE THE MAGIC OF FLOWER ARRANGEMENT!



CHLOE SZUKIOJ
@Chloeszukiloj

Founder of Dubai-based flower shop, Fine Blooms, Chloe curates some of the finest arrangements that add a touch of artistic brilliance and whimsical joy.



NURAI MURR
@Nurai.murr

If Gosha's new arrangements are limelighting in your dreams, Nurai is the one to follow for them. Going beyond the flora, she's a fruity floral storyteller!



MILLI PROUST
@Milliproust

Author and gardener, Milli designs with seasonal bounty. Every bouquet she curates has colorful origins and a beautiful visual journey.

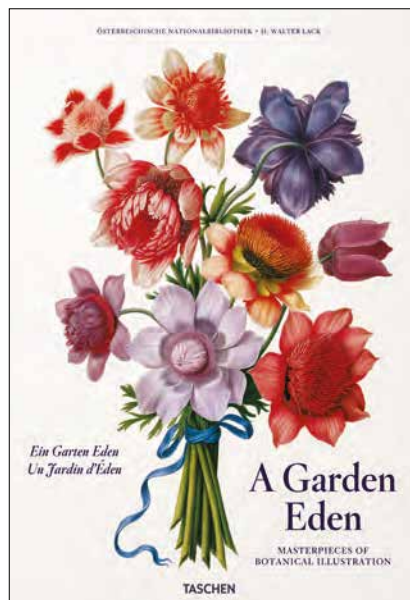
@EVA NEMETH



READ

From the Garden of Eden to the gardens of Versailles, flowers have long been symbols of beauty and wonder. We've curated a collection of books that will have you stopping to smell the roses this Spring

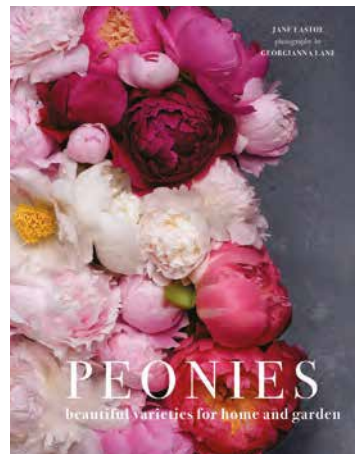
A GARDEN EDEN. MASTERPIECES OF BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION
by *H. Walter Lack*
This stunning collection celebrates the art of botanical illustration, blending artistry with scientific precision. Curated from the National Library of Vienna, it features works from Byzantine manuscripts to 19th-century masterpieces. With vibrant colors and remarkable accuracy, this book honors the timeless beauty of botanical art and the fragility of nature.



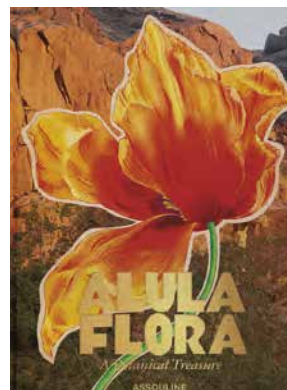
THE NEW ROMANTIC GARDEN
by *Jo Thompson*
A renowned garden designer based in the UK, Thompson's stunning book offers a tour of her diverse garden design projects. From intimate city spaces to expansive, park-like country gardens, she infuses each with her signature style, creating natural, unhurried beauty. With lush photography and personal stories throughout, this book is the perfect source of inspiration for any gardening enthusiast.



PEONIES: BEAUTIFUL VARIETIES FOR HOME & GARDEN
by *Georgianna Lane and Jane Eastoe*
This book explores the captivating beauty of peonies, showcasing various varieties along with their history and how they became the beloved blooms they are today. With more than 50 beautiful varieties, it's a must-read for anyone dreaming of becoming a peony farmer.



ALULA FLORA
by *Abdulaziz Asaeed*
AlUla, an ancient desert oasis, has become one of the most coveted travel destinations in the Middle East. Despite its arid surroundings, over 80 diverse plant species flourish in this unique landscape. This book delves into these remarkable flora, unraveling the extraordinary natural abundance that thrives in this desert wonder.



COMPILED BY SWATJAIN



1. Samia Halaby in Studio 2013
2. Sharjah Art Museum - Roots & Modernity Exhibition
3. The Emirati Burqa
4. Islamic Museum
5. Tamam El-Akhal

BY ODELLA MATHEWS, ALL IMAGES SUPPLIED COURTESY OF SMA



THROUGH THE EYES OF A WOMAN

Aisha Rashid Deemas talks to ELLE Arabia about the importance of Arab female artists and how they remain an integral part of cultural dialogue, serving to enhance the legacy, history, and heritage of the region and to inspire future generations.

have been actively involved in the cultural and museum sector for nearly 20 years," says Aisha Rashid Deemas, Director General of Sharjah Museums Authority. Passionate about art and heritage in the region, Aisha is dedicated to sharing stories with communities of all ages. "My priorities continue to be sustainability, cultural preservation and community engagement. Museums play a vital role in safeguarding our heritage while fostering meaningful social connections."

Over the past two decades, Aisha has contributed to the planning and management of all 16 museums under Sharjah Museums Authority, covering archaeology, heritage, science, marine life, Islamic art and regional history. Her work includes curating exhibitions and creating inclusive spaces that welcome visitors from all backgrounds. Aisha remains focused on growing national and international collaborations and elevating Arab female artists. "The

contributions and achievements of Arab female artists have been instrumental in shaping the region's cultural identity," she says. "Through their innovative works, they've addressed social, political, and cultural themes, offering nuanced perspectives and fostering deeper understanding of the Arab world's complexities."

Reflecting on artists like Najat Makki, Karima Al Shomely, Samia Halaby, Tamam El-Akhal, Baya Mahieddine and Thuraya Al-Baqsamim - featured in the Lasting Impressions series - Aisha's commitment to shared Arab heritage is clear. Emirati artists Makki and Al Shomely highlight themes of heritage, traditional attire and adornments. Each artist explores memory, tradition, and women's roles and identities in society. Samia Halaby's work captures Palestinian history through visual storytelling, while Tamam El-Akhal's art reflects the displacement and identity struggles of the Palestinian people. Thuraya Al-Baqsamim and Baya Mahieddine spotlight women's roles in society, blending art and activism to explore identity, femininity and self-expression.

"Collectively, these artists have challenged stereotypes, promoted dialogue, and inspired future generations," Aisha notes. "Their impact extends beyond art, influencing education, activism, and cultural policies. Through artistic experimentation and inclusion, they ensure their narratives remain central to the Arab world's evolving identity." With more exhibitions and programs ahead, Sharjah Museums will continue to connect people to history - amplifying women's voices on regional and international platforms.

Sharjahmuseums.ae



One such piece, *Ember Gaze*, portrays a tiger in striking detail, reflecting both its majesty and vulnerability. Some estimates suggest that only 4,500 tigers remain in the wild today. "Our children may never get to see this magnificent animal," she says, visibly moved as she describes the inspiration behind her work.

STORY TIME

Syrian artist *Sana Maarrawi* expresses her emotions through *empathy and art*. An award-winning realism artist and designer, *she tells meaningful stories* of people, places, and animals through her art, inviting viewers to engage *with unspoken words*.

"I've always been drawn to art and the small details in everyday life," says Sana Maarrawi, a self-taught realism artist whose work is rich with emotions that are only felt, never spoken. This deep sentiment is powerfully captured in her depiction of two children at the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan. She recalls the moment as profoundly moving, interpreting the older sister's protective embrace and the younger brother's fearful yet hopeful gaze – his sister being his only anchor to a sense of home. "The two children marked the beginning of my artistic journey, coinciding with a time when I, too, had to leave my country," she reflects. Tears well up as she speaks about the tender emotions woven into the piece – the love and guardianship of the sister and the quiet desperation in the boy's eyes. "Realism became my way of expressing my love for nature, capturing fleeting moments and transforming them into timeless artworks. Over the years, I refined my skills, using art to recreate what I see and to tell meaningful stories," she shares.

BY ODEIA MATHEWS

Sana's passion for realism began in 2012, though her artistic roots trace back to her early studies in architecture. Since then, she has remained steadfast in using her art to support causes close to her heart.



Recently exhibiting as part of *Echoes of the Crescent* at Dubai Balloon, Atlantis, The Palm, alongside artists Maria Munteanu and Haneen Al Rifai, Sana Maarrawi presented a unique perspective on Arab history and culture. "My collection featured hyper-realistic paintings of horses and falcons – animals deeply revered in UAE culture. Through my art, I aimed to create an immersive experience, allowing viewers to feel the spirit of these creatures and their profound connection to the land."



Each of Sana's pieces captures the emotions of the subject – whether human or animal – at a particular moment in time. Depending on the techniques used, a single artwork can take anywhere from 60 to 200 hours to complete, whether created with charcoal and pencil or acrylic paint. More than just an artistic pursuit, her work serves as a powerful medium for change. She dedicates her talent to advocating for human and animal rights, protecting endangered species, and raising awareness about wildlife crimes.



Award-winning work, *Al Zaatari siblings*



ELLE

gourmet

DYNAMIC DUO...
Chef Mireille and Yasmina Hayek are redefining Middle Eastern dining in the Gulf and beyond with Em Sherif Café.



The Tastemakers...

CUISINE WITH HEART, HERITAGE AND A GLOBAL VISION

Few restaurants capture the heart of a culture quite like Em Sherif Café, a name synonymous with authentic Lebanese flavors, impeccable hospitality, and timeless tradition. At the helm of this celebrated institution is Chef Mireille Hayek, the visionary who turned her passion for food into a world-renowned dining experience. Now, with her daughter Yasmina Hayek stepping into the spotlight as Executive Chef, Em Sherif is embracing a new era – one that fuses classic Lebanese heritage with contemporary innovation.

With thriving locations in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, the Hayek duo is redefining Middle Eastern dining in the Gulf. Their approach is as much about storytelling as it is about cuisine – each dish is a love letter to Lebanon, crafted with precision and heart. But their ambitions don't stop there. With new outposts in London's Harrods and Monte Carlo, they are setting the stage for Lebanese cuisine to take its rightful place on the global fine-dining scene. In this exclusive interview, we sit down with the mother-daughter powerhouse to talk about their Gulf region plans, family traditions, and the art of elevating Lebanese food to new heights.

Em Sherif Café has become a culinary institution. What's the secret to keeping Lebanese cuisine both authentic and exciting for a modern audience?

Chef Mireille: The heart of Em Sherif has always been about preserving tradition while making it modern and relevant to today's audience. Authenticity is key, but so is evolution. We respect our heritage by staying true to time-honored techniques and flavors, yet we're constantly innovating – whether it's through presentation, ingredient sourcing, or how we engage with a more interested and knowledgeable generation of diners. At the end of the day, Lebanese cuisine is about warmth, generosity, and shared experiences, and that's what keeps it exciting no matter the era and market we're in.

From Beirut to Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and beyond, how does the UAE influence the evolution of Em Sherif Café's menu and experience?

Chef Mireille: The UAE is a melting pot of cultures and restaurant experiences, and that global dynamism naturally seeps into our approach at Em Sherif Café. While we stay deeply rooted in Lebanese tradition, the diversity and cosmopolitan nature of cities like Dubai inspire us to be more experimental.

A Culinary Legacy

THE MOTHER-DAUGHTER DUO BEHIND EM SHERIF'S EXPANSION

With roots in Lebanon and a vision for the future, Chef Mireille and Yasmina Hayek bring the soul of Lebanese cuisine to the UAE and beyond



YASMINA HAYEK,
EXECUTIVE CHEF
AND CREATIVE
DIRECTOR AT
EM SHERIF



CHEF MIREILLE
HAYEK, FOUNDER
OF EM SHERIF
RESTAURANTS

We've incorporated regional influences and adapted to the experience-driven dining scene while maintaining the soul of our cuisine and what we do.

You've built an empire rooted in Lebanese hospitality. What's a small but powerful gesture that makes a dining experience truly special?

Chef Mireille: The smallest gestures are often the most meaningful. Our ethos at Em Sherif is all about making people feel at home – the power of nostalgia, the Lebanese table "our way". True hospitality for us is in the details, in making every diner feel like they are home but also a valued guest.

If you had to create a "Daily Dish" inspired by the UAE, what flavors or ingredients would you incorporate?

Chef Mireille: I would love to create such a dish! Imagine a slow-cooked lamb infused with bezar (Emirati spice blend) and saffron, served over a freekeh, with a hint of date molasses perhaps for a touch of sweetness. It would be a homage to the region's rich flavors while keeping it unmistakably Lebanese (and therefore Em Sherif) at heart.

Yasmina, you grew up surrounded by food and hospitality. What's a childhood memory of your mother's cooking that still inspires you today?

Yasmina Hayek: One memory that always stays with me is watching my mother prepare kibbeh from scratch. She would grind the meat by hand, meticulously shape each piece, and make sure the balance of spices was just right. It was a labor of love, and I remember being fascinated by her passion, precision, and dedication. That attention to detail and respect for tradition continues to inspire the way I cook today.

You originally wanted to be a doctor – do you see any similarities between working in a lab and working in the kitchen?

Yasmina Hayek: Absolutely! Both require discipline, precision, and a deep understanding of how elements interact. In medicine, you work with chemical reactions, and in the kitchen, you create chemistry with flavors! Cooking is also about nourishing people, just in a different way. And plus, the vibe of a busy

and vibrant kitchen is more appealing to me than a medical lab!

With locations in London and Monte Carlo, how do you ensure Em Sherif's Lebanese soul shines through in every city?

Yasmina Hayek: It's all about staying true to the essence of Lebanese cuisine and our vision while highlighting and respecting local ingredients and audience. We bring in key Lebanese dishes, maintain traditional cooking methods and knowhow, and focus on delivering that signature warmth that defines our way of doing things. Every Em Sherif location should feel like stepping into a piece of Beirut, no matter where it is in the world.

You've trained in Michelin-starred kitchens – what's the most unexpected lesson you've brought back to Em Sherif?

Yasmina Hayek: One of the biggest lessons I learned is that simplicity, when executed perfectly, can be just as powerful as complexity. In Michelin-starred kitchens, every element on a plate has a purpose. I bring that philosophy back to Em Sherif every day, refining dishes that tell a story without unnecessary distractions.

If you could introduce one Lebanese dish to the global fine-dining scene that isn't widely known, what would it be and why?

Yasmina Hayek: Moghrabieh. It's a pearl-shaped Lebanese semolina pasta, with different toppings. It is a dish that has depth, texture, and a rich, comforting flavor profile that I believe has a beautiful fine-dining adaptation. It's Lebanese comfort food at its best, that we work with across our outlets and I'd love to see it more celebrated.

What's the one dish that always sparks a fun debate between you two in the kitchen?

Chef Mireille: Kibbeh Nayé! I've always believed in keeping it traditional, the way my mother taught me – perfectly seasoned raw meat, kneaded with just the right balance of flavors.

Yasmina Hayek: And I've always loved experimenting with it, thinking of ways to modernize the experience while still respecting its roots.

Chef Mireille: But I have to say, I'm glad we had this debate because it led to Yasmina launching the Kibbeh Nayé Sourdough Sandwich at Em Sherif Deli, and it has become one of our best sellers!

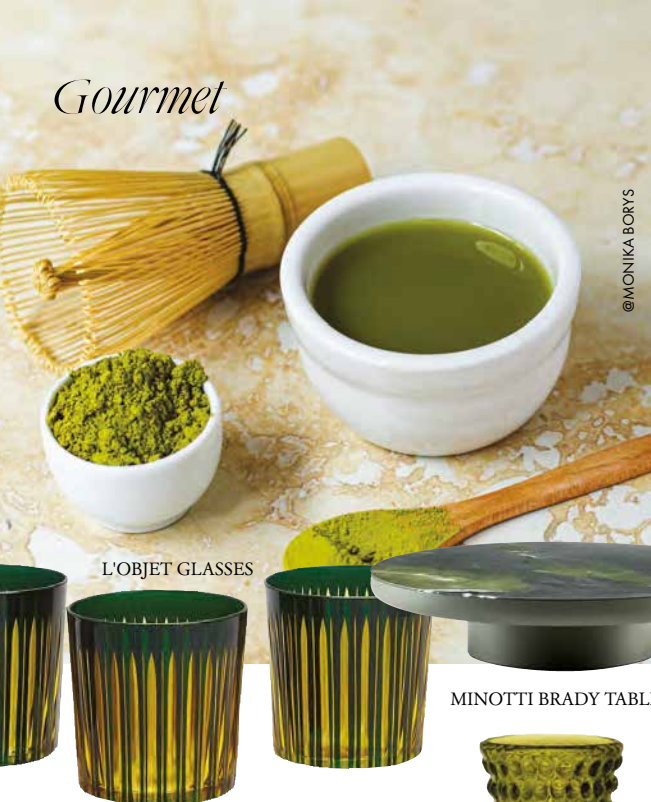
Running a family business comes with unique challenges – how do you balance tradition with innovation without stepping on each other's toes?

Chef Mireille: It's all about trust. I trust Yasmina's vision, and she respects the foundation we've built, along with the rest of our family. We have moments of disagreement, of course, but we always come back to our shared goal: celebrating and highlighting Lebanese cuisine in our best way possible.

Yasmina Hayek: My mother has set such a strong foundation that it allows me to experiment without losing sight of our identity. We may push each other at times, but at the end of the day, we're always aligned on what truly matters.

If Em Sherif Café were to create a special menu inspired by your mother-daughter journey, what would be the star dish and why?

Yasmina Hayek: Not to sound repetitive but I would say it would have to be Moghrabieh – a dish that symbolizes our ability to reinvent Lebanese classics while keeping nostalgia at its core. We've embraced different iterations of it across our outlets, from Traditional to Lobster, Seafood, Mushroom, Saffron, and even Caviar Moghrabieh. Each version represents a balance between honoring tradition and elevating it, much like our journey together. It's a dish that speaks of comfort, elegance, and possibilities of Lebanese culinary heritage.



@MONIKA BORYS

L'OBJET GLASSES

MINOTTI BRADY TABLE

MATCHA MOOD

Sip, serve and style in a soothing palette of matcha-inspired greens, elevating the table with zen-like calm.



ANNA VON LIPA CARAFE

COMPLETEDWORKS NAPKIN HOLDERS

GINORI 1735 MUG

TABLETOP TEMPO

Like musical scores in porcelain, Hermès En Contrepoint's rhythmic friezes and watercolor motifs let you set a new visual melody every meal.



SIX-CUP TEAPOT

@STUDIO DES FLEURS

CAKE PLATTER

COFFEE CUP AND SAUCER BLUE THREAD

EA CUP AND SAUCER YELLOW THREAD

HOLLOW DISH

HERMÈS EN CONTREPOINT © HERMÈS



WICK-ED FORMS

Sculptural silhouettes turn candlelight into a statement – minimalist, modern and totally

1. ASTIER DE VILLATTE
2. GINORI 1735
3. JONATHAN ADLER
4. LES OTTOMANS
5. VILLARI

ELLE

lifestyle

SWEET TIMES...
Take advantage of the burgeoning leaves and flowers and beautiful climes to discover and disconnect.

In Bloom...

A TRIP TO TOKYO, SHOPPING DELIGHTS AND GREEN GARDENS - JUST WHAT WE'RE CRAVING NOW!

@ANNE SPRATT

Celebrate in Style

The **Bicester Collection**'s Luxury Villages offer the ultimate festive shopping escape



With Eid al-Fitr here, La Vallée Village near Paris sets the scene for a stylish and seamless shopping experience. Just a short journey from the city, this open-air shopping destination offers an impressive selection of designer boutiques, gourmet delights, and cultural moments. Whether refreshing your wardrobe or selecting a meaningful gift, La Vallée Village blends fashion, gastronomy, and art in a way that makes every visit special.

PARISIAN GLAMOUR At La Vallée Village, fashion takes center stage, with boutiques from renowned brands such as Balmain, Karl Lagerfeld, Marni, Jimmy Choo, Coach, and more all offering exclusive pieces at exceptional prices. Whether you prefer effortless Parisian style, sharp tailoring, or statement pieces, the Village presents an array of options to enhance your festive wardrobe. Accessories and beauty lovers can explore Lancel, Furla, Clarins and L'Occitane, while fine watches and jewelry from Tag Heuer and Swarovski add the perfect finishing touch.

FEAST FOR THE SENSES Beyond fashion, La Vallée Village is a must-visit for food enthusiasts. This season, indulge in world-famous Parisian treats, from delicate Ladurée macarons to indulgent chocolates at Pierre Hermé. For a sit-down meal, Menu Palais serves refined, halal-friendly cuisine, while Alain Ducasse's Creperie Marguerite offers a taste of traditional French crêpes in a relaxed setting. Whether you're grabbing a quick bite or lingering over coffee, the culinary scene at La Vallée Village is as thoughtfully curated as its fashion.

ART MEETS FASHION Make sure to check out 'La Vallée Village Loves', a celebration of art and creativity. In collaboration with graffiti artist JACE, the Village's streets feature his playful Gouzou characters, fusing fashion and street art for a dynamic experience.



Need to Know:

- Enjoy discounts of up to 60% on top brands.
- Indulge in curated dining experiences, with halal-friendly options available.
- From personal styling to Hands-free Shopping, enjoy a seamless visit.
- Discover exclusive fashion-art collaborations at select Villages.
- Collect airline miles with select travel partners.

Beyond Paris

The Bicester Collection collectively has reimagined the boundaries around the worlds of luxury retail, hospitality, live music and sports entertainment, curating extraordinary experiences for the world's most discerning guests. Located in Europe, China and North America, the Collection's 12 Villages are world-renowned as iconic, open-air shopping destinations. Each village offers the world's best brands at incredible value, as well as celebrated restaurants and peerless services.

- **Bicester Village (UK):** Just an hour from London, featuring Charlotte Tilbury, Canada Goose and Creed, along with VIP styling services and The Apartment, a private lounge.
- **Fidenza Village (Italy):** A Milanese shopping retreat with brands like Missoni and Etro, alongside an exclusive design installation for Salone del Mobile 2025.
- **La Roca Village (Spain):** Near Barcelona, where the 'Your Style, Your Game' campaign brings together fashion, sport, and contemporary art.
- **Ingolstadt Village (Germany):** Close to Munich, offering luxury European brands such as MCM and Aigner, plus the charm of Germany's first Ladurée Maison Salon.



MAIN IMAGE SUPPLIED, ALL THE OTHERS KARL DAGHER @KARLPHOTOGRAPHY



Aman Tokyo

A sanctuary **above** the skyline

Perched atop the soaring Otemachi Tower, Aman Tokyo is an urban sanctuary that redefines luxury with its blend of traditional Japanese aesthetics and modern elegance. Overlooking the Imperial Palace Gardens, with glimpses of the majestic Mount Fuji on the horizon, my stay at Aman Tokyo was nothing short of extraordinary. From the moment I stepped into the hotel's expansive 30-meter-high lobby, featuring a traditional engawa design and a soothing interplay of washi paper, wood and stone, I knew this would be a staycation like no other.

BEYOND IMAGINATION

My suite, an opulent retreat high above Tokyo's vibrant streets, was a masterclass in sophisticated design. It combined minimalist Japanese elegance with all modern comforts, offering a spacious layout that included a dining room, kitchen, living area and a fully equipped office. However, the highlight was undoubtedly the bathroom - an oasis of serenity featuring a furo deep-soak bathtub, where I could take in the breathtaking skyline views while indulging in a moment of quiet relaxation.

FOOD & MOOD

Dining at Aman Tokyo was an experience in itself. The restaurant, Arva, provided a front-row seat to Tokyo's grandeur, with panoramic views of the Imperial Palace Gardens and, on clear days, the snow-capped peak of Mount Fuji. Every meal was a celebration of flavors, with dishes crafted from the finest seasonal ingredients. For a more intimate experience, Musashi by Aman served Edomae-style sushi, prepared with precision and artistry. In the afternoons, The Lounge by Aman offered a tranquil setting to enjoy a traditional Japanese tea service, complete with delicate sweets.

RELAX & UNWIND

Aman Tokyo's spa spans two entire floors, making it one of the largest and most comprehensive wellness sanctuaries in the city. My experience at the spa was pure bliss - the treatment rooms, equipped with their own relaxation areas and steam showers, provided a holistic escape from the bustling day. The massage was both rejuvenating and deeply soothing, leaving me in a state of absolute tranquility. The 30-meter heated



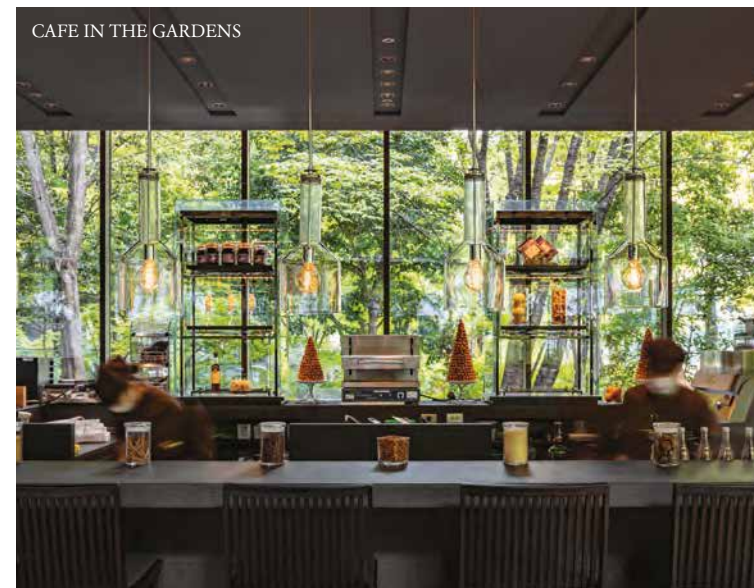
Clockwise from left: PANORAMA SUITE, BEDROOM; CITY SUITE, BATHROOM; MASTER CHEF HIROYUKI MUSASHI; AMAN SUITE, DINING

"JAPAN IS INCREASINGLY BECOMING A MUST-VISIT DESTINATION, ESPECIALLY FOR TRAVELERS FROM THE GULF REGION, WHO SEEK A PERFECT BLEND OF RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE AND CONTEMPORARY LUXURY"

indoor pool was another standout feature, offering a breathtaking perspective of Tokyo from the 33rd floor. Floating in the warm water while taking in the endless skyline and enjoying dried fruits and tea was the perfect bridge between sightseeing and heading out to dinner.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Set in the prestigious Otemachi district, Aman Tokyo's prime location makes exploring the city effortless. The hotel is within walking distance of Tokyo Station, granting easy access to the nationwide bullet train network. This made my journey from Osaka to Tokyo seamless and exhilarating. Nearby, the tree-lined streets and contemporary office towers house chic boutiques and charming cafés, providing a refined urban atmosphere. Ginza, Tokyo's premier shopping district, was just a stroll away, offering an array of flagship stores and artisanal boutiques. A short ride brought us to some of the city's most fascinating neighborhoods, including the tree-lined boulevard of Omotesando, the backstreets of Aoyama, the unmissable Harajuku, as well as the lively Toyosu Fish Market and the scenic Tokyo Bay area. Each excursion was an adventure, and returning to Aman Tokyo felt like stepping into a peaceful retreat far removed from the city's frenetic energy.





THE JAPANESE TEA GARDEN IN SAN FRANCISCO, UNITED STATES

Nestled in San Francisco, the Japanese Tea Garden is one of the oldest and most serene public gardens in the United States, stretching over three acres. With winding paths, tranquil ponds, a teahouse and various elements of water and rocks, as soon as you enter, you are transported to a peaceful respite. Surrounded by lush greenery and quaint Japanese structures, I found myself sitting by the pond, counting koi fish and in awe of how this serene escape exists in the heart of the city.



favorite florist, Florette. There's something inherently magical about peonies in full bloom. As each bundle slowly opens, it smiles in all its beauty. It's a true pièce de résistance. Spring makes it easy to embrace the simple life—indulging in green thumbs and the joy of gardening, or, like me, indulging in exploring both

planned and wild gardens around the world. For a very long time, gardens have been linked with patience, resilience, and quiet reflection. There's a sense of seclusion and tranquil introspection that follows. Studies have proven that gardens reduce stress, regulate blood pressure, and generally benefit psychological well-being. This is me trying to validate my belief—so, if the science doesn't convince you, keep reading; maybe I will.

So, while our part of the world slowly shifts into summer, grab a cup of tea, wrap yourself in a cozy throw, and settle in to journey through some of the most beautiful gardens I've explored around the world—some a little obvious, and others that you'll want to add to your travel list.

COMPILED BY SWATILJAIN

In Full Bloom

Spring is in the air and there's no better **place to stop and smell the roses** than at one of the world's most breathtaking gardens

The start of spring brings about some unusual casualties—whether it's the change of wardrobe from autumn-winter to spring-summer, the pollen allergies that have you sneezing and clutching your Claritin, or, in this part of the world, holding on to the last of the flowers at Miracle Garden and sneaking in that beach day when you've called in sick at work. Spring adds a touch of warmth, and it's that perfect time of year when the sun's gentle heat combines with a little chill—a recipe for a beautiful day.

What makes my day a little brighter is a small bundle of peonies, wrapped in brown paper with a little string, delivered to my door from my



MAROON BELLS IN ASPEN, UNITED STATES

It felt like something straight out of an old poem—I'm not sure how else to describe it, but bear with me, and I'll try. In Aspen, you take a shuttle bus that drops you at the entrance to this stunning valley. From there, you trek through bountiful greenery, passing flowing lakes, snowcapped mountains, and breathtaking views all around. You think you've reached the peak of beauty, but the more you walk, the more you realize there's so much more to discover. Beautiful in every season, in spring the entire valley gradually dresses in vibrant green, and by summer, wildflowers burst into bloom.

THE QUEEN'S HAMLET, THE ESTATE OF TRIANON, VERSAILLES, FRANCE

The Gardens of Versailles are truly special — every corner you turn surprises you with wonders that still echo the essence of Louis XIV. But if you take a slightly less-traveled path, you'll find yourself in The Queen's Hamlet. Designed at the request of Marie-Antoinette, the hamlet features a model village around an artificial lake, along with the Queen's House and various beautifully decorated spaces. As I walked through the gardens, many thoughts crossed my mind — did she know the revolution was at her doorstep? What inspired this design? There are many beautiful spaces to explore, such as an abandoned boat in a small stream of stagnant water (perhaps purely for aesthetics?) or the stunning Temple of Love nestled in the English Garden.



MIRABELL PALACE AND GARDENS IN SALZBURG, AUSTRIA

Let's start at the beginning—it's always a good place to start. The sounds and songs of our childhood find their way into the corners of our hearts. So, on a trip to Salzburg, you better believe I packed my dancing shoes, even though I was well past 16 going on 17 (I know, that scene was filmed at Hellbrunn Castle). Now a UNESCO World Heritage site, Mirabell Palace's Pegasus Fountain is the iconic spot where Julie Andrews, as Maria, and the seven children danced around while singing "Do-Re-Mi." Safe to say, for Sound of Music lovers, you can't miss the chance to recreate that scene.



NATIONAL ORCHID GARDEN IN SINGAPORE

Considered one of the most coveted ornamental plants, orchids symbolize love, beauty, luxury, and strength. Now, imagine the lush, green city of Singapore, home to the magnificent Singapore Botanic Gardens. As breathtaking as the gardens are, the jewel in its crown is the National Orchid Garden. This beautiful garden is home to nearly a thousand different types of orchids, in every color imaginable — far beyond what you could dream. The stunning flowers, combined with tranquil water features and even a greenhouse, make it a true paradise.



Elara Villas, Dubai Creek Resort

Seclusion, Luxury, and a Touch of Romance at
Dubai Creek Resort

THE SETTING

Nestled within the lush expanse of Dubai Creek Resort, the new Elara Villas offer a unique blend of tranquility and luxury. Here, you're surrounded by views of green golf courses, a serene lake, and the iconic creek, creating an ideal setting to escape from the city's pace. The villas' design draws on contemporary elegance while embracing the beauty of the natural surroundings - whether you're lounging by the private pool, dining in your spacious villa, or simply soaking in the peace and quiet, it feels like a world of your own.

SPECIAL MOMENTS

Each Elara Villa is a private sanctuary, with four en-suite bedrooms, expansive living areas, and a garden with a private pool. It's the kind of place where luxury meets comfort - perfect for a relaxed getaway, but also ideal for those looking to mark a special occasion, like a wedding. While the villas themselves

offer plenty of space to host intimate gatherings or receptions, the resort also offers a selection of venues, like Boardwalk and The Thai Kitchen, where you can celebrate in style. With a dedicated butler service, every detail - whether a quiet dinner or a grand event - is tailored to make it unforgettable.

CHILL, RELAX, UNWIND

Dubai Creek Resort isn't just about secluded villas; it's a complete experience. You can enjoy award-winning dining, from the fresh seafood at Boardwalk to the aromatic dishes at The Cinnamon Club. If relaxation is on the agenda, the resort's luxurious spa offers a range of treatments, while golf, tennis, and fitness programs are available for those seeking a bit more activity. Whether you're unwinding after a wedding or spending a few days indulging in everything the resort has to offer, there's no shortage of ways to feel pampered and rejuvenated.



APRIL 16

THE HISTORY OF JEWELLERY

For art and history lovers, L'École Middle East is hosting a dedicated talk on Precious Ornamental Stones uncovering jewelry culture and its connection the Middle East. Discover precious stones used in Mesopotamian and Egyptian civilizations, and the emergence of jewelry ornamentation over the years with Dr. David Usieto Cabrera, Art Historian and Lecturer at L'École, School of Jewelry Arts. @Dubai Design District, Building 10. [Lecole.vanclefarpels.com](https://lecole.vanclefarpels.com)

APRIL 16-18

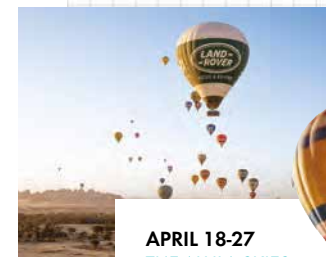
CHANGE-MAKERS & WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

For women who are seeking to elevate their pitch and scale their business further, the Women Economic Forum-GCC (WEF-GCC) Riyadh 2025 is the place to be this month. Connect with investors, change-makers, policy shapers and leaders who want to access new markets and network with female business women across industries. [Wef-gcc.com](https://wef-gcc.com)

APRIL 18-20

ART DUBAI

Spread across four categories and featuring over 20 new galleries exhibiting for the first time in 2025, there are emerging and established artists to discover from Africa, South Asia and the Gulf Region. Educational programs, talks, and workshops are all part of the fun and one of the highlights includes the new media tech and AI immersive by Hybrid Experience, all put together by Dubai-based artists, engineers and creatives that gives visitors a chance to visualize their dreams using AI. @MadinatJumeirah, Dubai. [Artdubai.ae](https://artdubai.ae)



APRIL 18-27

THE ALULA SKIES FESTIVAL

Explore the stunning night skies from what is officially the world's best places in the world to discover the universe - AlUla in Saudi Arabia. If you haven't already been there, this is your chance to explore the natural beauty of the land, along with exploring the AlUla Manara and Gharamel Nature Reserve which is the GCC's first-ever International Dark Sky Park. [Experiencealula.com](https://experiencealula.com)



APRIL 19

FOSCA GARCIA WORKSHOP

Experience art with a twist at the Art & Fly workshop with Fosca Garcia. The Art Therapy expert leads guests through an engaging experience, helping them find their voice, creativity and self-expression by way of therapeutic art. A few of the benefits of art therapy include coping with stress, anxiety and emotions, improving self-esteem and even dealing with depression and PTSD. Dubai Balloon at Atlantis, The Palm. @TheDubaiBalloon



APRIL 20

EARTH DAY

Mark Earth Day with Absolute Adventure's Earth Day Photo Walk at Kalba, Sharjah, in collaboration with Fujifilm Middle East. The walk includes a guided experience by Fujifilm instructor Eric Perales, and begins with a photography lecture at Adventure Café, followed by immersive photo walks through the Blossom Valley Flower Trail and Mangroves Lakes. [Absolute-adventure.com/earth-photography-day](https://absolute-adventure.com/earth-photography-day)

APRIL CALENDAR

Our edit of the new places to visit, things to do, and events to attend

APRIL 19

COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Get ready to experience Dubai's first country music festival for one night only with 'Summer In Nashville - Dubai' as it brings UK's top country bands to perform alongside music artists from the US and beyond. Expect tributes to the legends of country, and enjoy a country cowboy themed event with an American BBQ, rodeo bull rides, axe throwing, line dancing and more. Tickets on sale at Platinumlist. @Summerinnashville



Elle INTERNATIONAL

HOROSCOPE

ARIES

20 MARCH - 19 APRIL

There is a sort of looseness in the next few weeks that you might find disconcerting. Neptune moves into your sign now, bringing lots of new ideas and possibilities - but they are all theoretical. None of them are definite, which worries you. At the same time, this month's new moon is a partial eclipse, which opens the door to change, but may not take you through; if you feel safer staying where you are, then do so.

TAURUS

20 APRIL - 20 MAY

What you say you want seems very much like what you used to have, and there are clear signs this month that you are trying to take your life back to the way it used to be. But would you really want that? Yes, there were good times, but there were disappointments too, which you are choosing to ignore. Tying yourself to the past, for any reason, is a bad idea. Better times lie ahead, as you will see after the 13th.

GEMINI

21 MAY - 20 JUNE

It's so easy to push a run of luck just one step too far and lose all that you have gained. Recent career successes may tempt you to try for one more, but as you will see, the situation that worked so well for you is already starting to dissolve, and in a few months it may not be there at all. Trying to do more with it would be a waste of your time and energy; look for something new to take you forwards - and upwards.

CANCER

21 JUNE - 21 JULY

Some of us are eager to make our ambitions into reality, and leap forward at the first chance we get and some of us are less enthusiastic, only moving when we are pushed. But what if you are in between? Somewhere in the next few weeks is a career opportunity of a sort you never expected. It's there if you reach for it, but it won't come and get you. It's teasing you, in a way; flirting, even. Will you respond?

LEO

22 JULY - 22 AUGUST

You know that you have to make some big changes this year, but that doesn't mean demolishing all that you have done so far. There is much that is still good, that you can be proud of, and most importantly that you can take with you into the future. Don't try to make yourself into something that you are not. You are still you, just heading in a new direction. Take the first steps as Mars enters your sign on the 18th.

VIRGO

23 AUGUST - 22 SEPTEMBER

You seem to be at the stage in a relationship where you both try to do what you think the other one wants. It's quite funny when it's in a movie, but less so in real life. Luckily, you both want the same thing, to be happy together, but you are trying to make it happen in different ways, which is only to be expected. Don't try to correct each other; as long as you're heading in the same direction, you're fine.

APRIL

Text by BERNARD FITZWALTER

LIBRA

23 SEPTEMBER - 22 OCTOBER

To live the life you want, you must let go of the things that are holding you back. Yet there is a sense of security in staying in a job, or a relationship that you don't like; anything is better than nothing, right? But now, as Neptune takes up its new position opposite you, it dares you to think differently, to let go of the things you have clung onto for too long, and to follow your dreams. It's not as hard as you think.

SCORPIO

23 OCTOBER - 21 NOVEMBER

You find yourself being pulled in two opposing directions this month, as mighty planets clash across the top and bottom of your chart. Turbulent times like these are too powerful for you to control, so don't try; let events take their course. Mid-April is particularly tense don't let yourself be pushed into taking a decision you're not sure about, or make a move that leaves you no way out if you change your mind.

SAGITTARIUS

22 NOVEMBER - 20 DECEMBER

When someone you know, but are not very close to, suggests that the two of you should get together sometime, what does that mean? Is it a polite but meaningless way of ending a conversation? Are they saying they want to discuss something with you? Or is it an invitation to a love affair? The planets suggest that it's certainly not the first one, and that whatever it is, it goes very deep. If you say yes, take care.

CAPRICORN

21 DECEMBER - 19 JANUARY

Does everything in life have to be sensible or profitable? You are wondering about pursuing a new venture - a romance, perhaps - which doesn't fit with any of your long-term plans and could well be a waste of time; and yet, it has something special to offer, something you have never tried before, and it has captured your heart despite your head telling you otherwise. In matters like these, the heart always wins.

AQUARIUS

20 JANUARY - 18 FEBRUARY

A long-term project that you launched several years ago is beginning to show some results. There were probably times when you wondered why you ever started it, but all is well, and now you're glad that you did. If that sets you thinking about the next stage, whatever that might be, then there's no need to rush, you have a few months yet. Take time to celebrate and appreciate - what you've done so far.

PISCES

19 FEBRUARY - 19 MARCH

Your ruler Neptune leaves your sign as April opens. Has life suddenly gone quiet? Is there no mad rush of people and events? Maybe, maybe not; but you will notice that the waters you swim in are calmer now, which you will like. Yes, you will have to make progress by your own efforts rather than letting the current take you, but the upside of that is that now you can choose your own direction. That's good.

WILD BLUE YONDER

SS25 reimagines denim and earthy browns with a free-spirited blend of hippie nostalgia and Western edge



SAINT LAURENT



BRUNELLO CUCINELLI



LOEWE



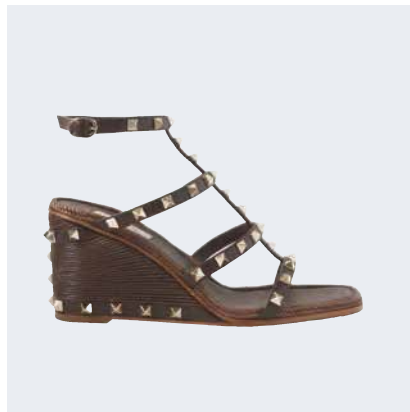
BOTTEGA VENETA EYEWEAR



GUCCI



NILI LOTAN



VALENTINO GARAVANI



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