

ELLE

ARABIA

MAY 2026

*The
new
mood*

A SHIFT IN
STYLE AND
A SHARPER
WAY OF
DRESSING
NOW

HIBA TAWAJI

A **VOICE** BEYOND
BORDERS

UAE DHS 30





REACH FOR THE CROWN

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CHANEL

THE CHANEL 25 HANDBAG





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PARIS

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RED, ONLY RED,
NOTHING BUT RED

ROUGE CASAQUE
BEAUTY IS A GESTURE

ELLE

MAY 2026
ISSUE 176

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Rising Egyptian actress Gehad Hossam El Din opens up about intensity, instinct, and the characters that linger long after the cameras stop rolling



ON THE COVER

HIBA TAWAJI
in Full Look Gucci
Pre-Fall 2026

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Hair Christophe Mecca;
Makeup Raffaele
Romagnoli;
Location
La Pérouse Paris



Full Look, Chanel

84
RIGHT NOW



RED, ONLY RED,
NOTHING BUT RED

ROSE HACIENDA,
BEAUTY IS A GESTURE

ELLE

MAY 2026
ISSUE 176

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Below: **AHEAD OF THE TIDE:** EVEN AS SUMMER 2026 IS JUST SETTLING IN, THE FASHION EVENT OF THE MOMENT WAS THE CHANEL CRUISE 2026/27 LAUNCH IN BIARRITZ, WHERE MATTHIEU BLAZY SET A NEW RHYTHM FOR THE HOUSE.

Left: **SUNBOUND:** HIGH-HEELED ESPADRILLES AND RATTAN BAGS WITH UNEXPECTED COLOR, TEXTURE AND DETAIL CARRY THE SEASON FORWARD.



CHANEL CHANEL CRUISE 2026/27

Polished Instinct

CREAM SILK TAILORING MEETS FLASHES OF ANIMAL PRINT AND GOLD, SETTING THE TONE TO A MORE PLAYFUL EDGE TO ELEGANCE



ROBERTO CAVALLI BAC STAGE S26

Holding Ground

Dear Readers,

May brings a subtle shift. A lighter mood, a clearer headspace and a sense that things are moving again with purpose. This issue reflects that energy, bringing together stories that are in step with the moment. At the heart of it is our cover story with Hiba Tawaji, who brings Gucci's Pre-Fall 2026 collection into focus while opening up about music, identity, and navigating a moment shaped by uncertainty and emotion. There's honesty in how she approaches her work – knowing when to push, when to pause – and that balance defines the story. The conversations across the issue add depth. Rising actress Gehad Hossam El Din speaks to the intensity behind her roles, while Olivia Dean reflects on the momentum shaping her music. In Abu Dhabi, Zainab Talati brings her story to the table, translating personal history and everyday rituals into a space of her own.

Fashion this month is fresh and streamlined with silhouettes that are clean with an eye on the details, jewelry and watches follow suit, with collections that are more fluid in how they're worn and more personal in how they're expressed. Beyond fashion, the issue moves between city and coast, across destinations that offer a change of pace and perspective. Travel, beauty, and culture come together with a focus on what feels relevant now. Across fashion, music, and design, the energy is building again!



Zainab Talati

dina.spahi@ellearabia.com



- 1. SALONI 2. THE SEI
- 3. COMME SI 4. VERSACE
- 5. GIANVITO ROSSI 6. GUCCI
- 7. OSCAR DE LA RENTA
- 8. ZIMMERMANN
- 9. RETROFETE



The Icare

Saint Laurent's Icare tote leans into summer with its wooden bead construction, anchored by the Cassandre logo and a removable pouch for essentials.



The Face

Schiaparelli reworks leather into a woven illusion with the Face Bag where intricately interlaced cords mimic wicker, finished with the House's signature surrealist face in gold-plated brass and enamel.



The Galleria

With its soft hue, Prada's Galleria tote pairs its structured silhouette with practical details, from dual handles to a detachable strap and signature enamel triangle.

ELLE

radar

QUIET CLASSIC
An archive-inspired crossbody bag crafted in Italy from leather and Burberry Check cotton in the signature archive beige. The Note is finished with a logo-engraved closure and lined in cotton, blending heritage detailing with functionality.



BURBERRY MOTHERS DAY 2026

Finishing Touch

THE PIECES THAT COMPLETE THE LOOK – THOUGHT THROUGH, TACTILE, AND JUST BOLD ENOUGH TO SHIFT THE MOOD



BLOOM BOOM

LOUD, PROUD, AND BURSTING WITH COLOR, THIS SEASON'S FLORALS TRADE SOFT ROMANCE FOR STATEMENT-MAKING IMPACT YOU CAN SPOT FROM ACROSS THE ROOM.

1. DORIAN WEBB 2. ALÉMAIS 3. MIU MIU 4. RABANNE 5. BOTTEGA VENETA 6. MANOLO BLAHNIK 7. LA DOUBLEJ 8. PUCCI

1. RABANNE 2. LOEFFLER RANDALL 3. MANOLO BLAHNIK 4. LA VESTE 5. ALÉMAIS 6. ZIMMERMAN 7. DSQUARED2 8. TORY BURCH 9. STAUD



LINEAR ENERGY

FROM PUNCHY PRIMARIES TO HIGH-CONTRAST CLASHES, BOLD STRIPES ARE PROVING "WALKING THE LINE" WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE SUBTLE.

Island state of mind

Your annual excuse to dress like you're permanently on holiday. For 2026, Paula's Ibiza leans all the way into sun-drenched escapism; think raffia everything, crocheted textures, and breezy, undone silhouettes that move effortlessly from beach to city. It's tactile, joyful, and just polished enough to pass anywhere, whether you're actually in Ibiza or just pretending you are



LOEWE

Fashion Memo
A CURATED ROUNDUP OF THE BEST NEW FASHION AND NOTEWORTHY PIECES TO PAY ATTENTION TO NOW!

Cult buy

You thought denim was off-duty? Think again. Alaïa enters the chat with its first-ever jeans, and naturally, they're cut, sculpted, and refined to perfection. True to the house's signature, these pieces hug, shape, and hold with precision - less about ease, more about intention.



Same baguette, new energy

The Fendi Baguette is having a full-circle moment, bringing back its original 26424 code in a Re-Edition that taps straight into the archives while updating the silhouette for today with a softer feel and easy, under-the-arm wear. With Milan-exclusive styles and collectible packaging, it's a reminder of why it's iconic in the first place.



Coveted Collabs

When fashion teams up, magic happens. These are the collabs turning heads, selling out, and setting the tone for what's next...



©INSTAGRAM/@LISYSRODDY



1



WHO: ADIDAS ORIGINALS X ASOS

WHAT: A fresh spin on the classics, this collab reworks Adidas Originals staples - think track tops, relaxed trousers, and logo-heavy tees - with a more fashion-first attitude. It's sport built for way more than just the gym.



WHO: VICTORIA BECKHAM X GAP

WHAT: Basics, but make them Beckham. Crisp shirting, sharp blazers, and perfectly cut denim give Gap's classics a cleaner, more tailored finish - sleeker, sharper, and far from basic.



2



3

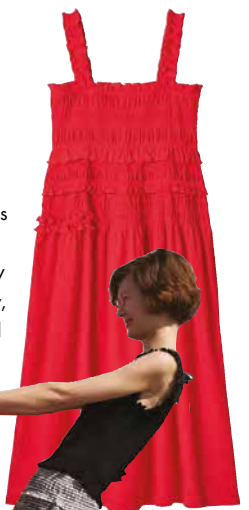
WHO: BERSHKA X ARIES

WHAT: A high-street twist with attitude. Distressed denim, graphic tees, and oversized hoodies channel Aries' cult aesthetic, reworked with a sharper, more directional edge that feels fresh, not forced.



WHO: CECILIE BAHNSEN X UNIQLO

WHAT: Romance, made wearable. Bahnsen's signature puffed silhouettes and delicate textures meet everyday essentials from the Japanese favorite, blending dreamy femininity with real-life ease - pretty, practical, and designed to be worn on repeat.



5



4

WHO: DOLCE & GABBANA X RAY BAN

WHAT: Think signature silhouettes with a more statement-driven edge: oversized frames, tinted lenses, and high-gloss finishes, dialed up with just enough attitude to turn a look.



PHOTO: LOUISE AND MARIA THORNFELDT / COURTESY OF UNIQLO



SOFT

ESCAPE

Giorgio Armani Mare Spring/Summer 2026 captures the mood of long beach days and sunlit evenings through a wardrobe that moves *easily from shore to city*



Giorgio Armani leans into summer with pieces that slip on and go. Swimwear leads into sheer cover-ups, breezy dresses, kimono-cut layers, and relaxed trousers, designed to mix and shift across the day. Silk, linen jersey, hemp and gauze-light textures keep everything light, with just enough structure to hold their shape.

Color carries the collection. Pale blues sit at the core, softened to echo sky and water, layered with sanded neutrals like ivory, beige and sun-warmed tones that move easily across the wardrobe. Coral appears in light washes, bringing a gentle lift across dresses and separates. Accessories follow through with wide-brim hats, scarves, and understated bijoux that complete the look in a natural way. The collection comes together as a clear, cohesive summer edit that is easy to wear, polished in tone, and built for long days by the water.



Menswear stays aligned with relaxed shirts, easy trousers, and lightweight tailoring cut for warm weather.



“AIRY FABRICS AND FLUID CUTS REMAIN CENTRAL TO THE SEASON”

UPFRONT

FROM RETROSPECTIVES TO THE PIECES SHAPING THE SEASON, HERE'S WHAT'S OPENING, SHIFTING, AND WORTH KNOWING

Surreal Shift

Opening in London, Schiaparelli: Fashion Becomes Art brings together more than 400 objects to explore how Elsa Schiaparelli reshaped the relationship between fashion and art. The exhibition moves from her early Paris years through her international expansion, with a notable focus on her London salon and its independent clientele.

Collaborations with figures such as Salvador Dalí and Jean Cocteau take centre stage, shown through garments alongside artworks, photography, and archival material. Key pieces including the Skeleton and Tears dresses underline her ability to turn clothing into conversation.

The final section shifts to the present, where Daniel Roseberry continues that legacy with sculptural couture worn by today's performers and public figures. Rather than looking back, the exhibition draws a continuous line between past and present, showing how Schiaparelli's ideas still shape the way fashion is imagined and worn.



VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM PRESENTS SCHIAPARELLI Fashion Becomes Art, on view March 28 to November 8, 2026, tracing the house from its 1920s beginnings to today under Daniel Roseberry.



MARKET PLACE: Hands On!

Bucket bags take the lead this summer, scaled down and easy to carry – open or with drawstring closures and soft structure that keep things light and playful.



©ERDA ESTREMEIRA



From Left: POLENE, TORY BURCH, HERMÈS, DIOR



- 1. VERSACE
- 2. SAINT LAURENT
- 3. BURBERRY
- 4. BALENCIAGA

Step Forward...

High-heel clogs return with a confident lift, pairing carved wooden soles with polished leather and unexpected finishes that feel equal parts nostalgic and new.

ELLE

accessories

GREEN DRIFT Miu Miu's Wander bag, in signature matelassé leather, softens into a quilted shape that moves with the body, while a spectrum of greens gives the familiar silhouette a fresh turn.



CREATIVE DIRECTOR: MIUCCIA PRADA; ART DIRECTION: CHRISTOPHER SIMMONDS; PHOTOGRAPHER: STEVEN MEIBEL; DIRECTOR: JORDAN HEMINGWAY; STYLING: LOTTI VOLKOVA

Fresh Delivery

A LIGHTER MOOD SETS IN AS COLOR, TEXTURE AND EASE COME INTO FOCUS, WITH ACCESSORIES THAT ARE EFFORTLESSLY CHIC

THE BRIGHT SIDE

FROM JUICY-TONED MINIS TO PUNCHY OVERSIZED TOTES, THESE MOOD-BOOSTING PIECES PROVE ONE THING: LIFE IS SIMPLY BRIGHTER IN COLOR.



LOEWE



1. BOTTEGA VENETA 2. SAINT LAURENT 3. PRADA 4. ALAÏA
5. MIU MIU 6. GIVENCHY 7. JACQUEMUS 8. BALENCIAGA



TUTTI FRUITY

PLAYFUL, JUICY, AND A LITTLE BIT UNEXPECTED, FRUIT-INSPIRED JEWELRY IS OFFICIALLY RIPE FOR THE PICKING.

Sun Kissed

A sweep of white through sand to deep brown, with woven textures and playful, sun-ready pieces made for long, easy days



SAINT LAURENT



MISSONI



JACQUEMUS



EUGENIA KIM



JIMMY CHOO



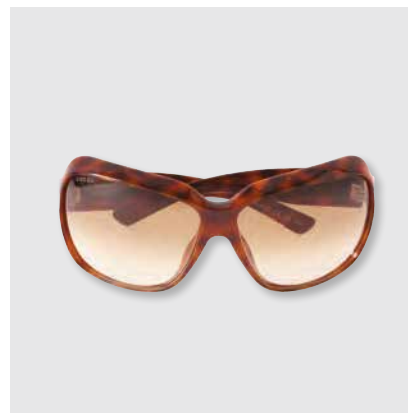
CASTAÑER



CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN



CHLOÉ



GUCCI

ELLE

jewelry

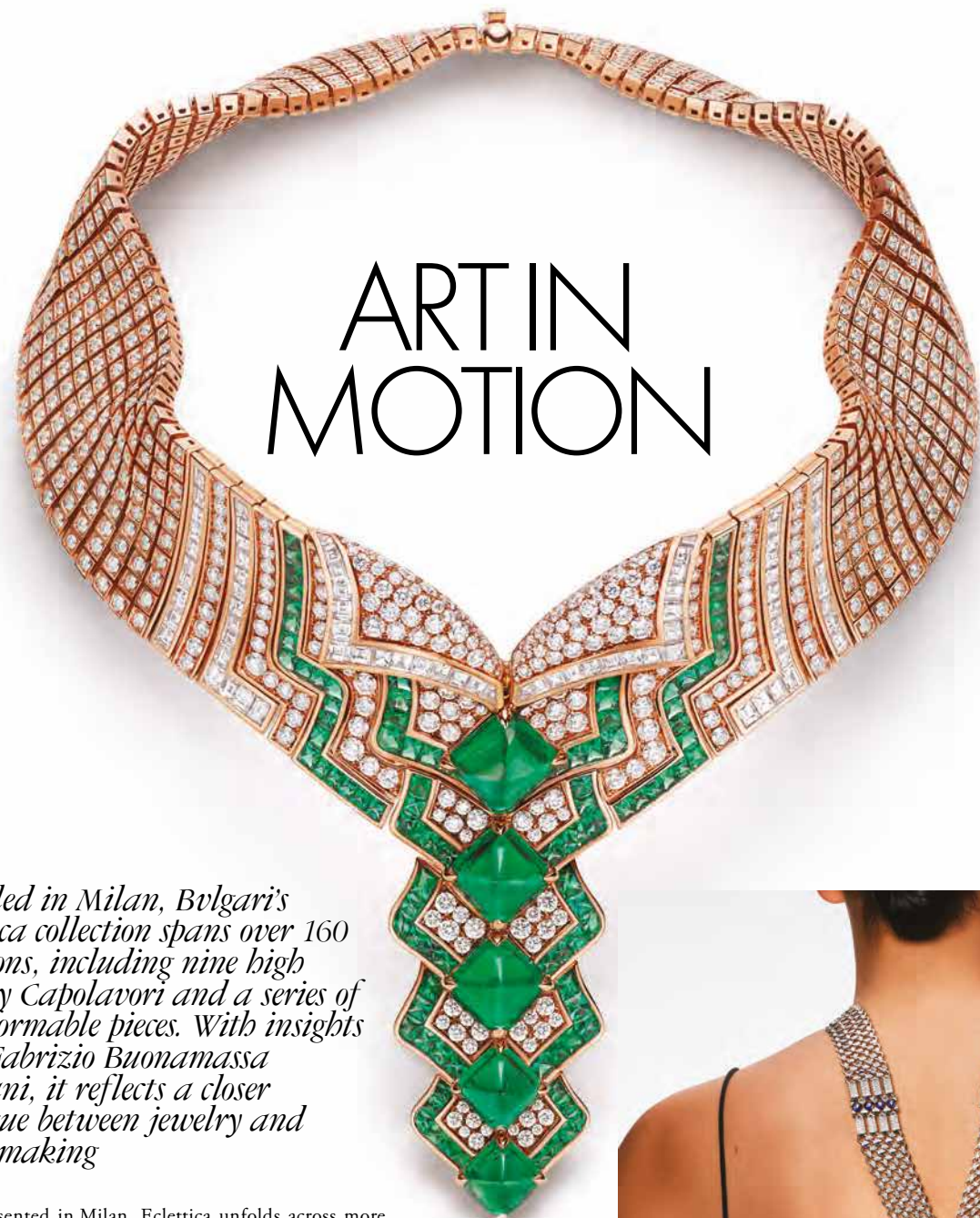


TIME SHIFT
Marli steps into watchmaking with a debut that balances New York's restless energy with Swiss precision. The refined silhouettes of the L23 and L30 models come in 18k rose gold, 18k white gold, or stainless steel, with natural mother-of-pearl dials and interchangeable satin or alligator straps.



Fine Lines

JEWELRY SHARPENS THIS MONTH, WITH CLEANER SHAPES AND SUBTLE CONTRASTS



ART IN MOTION

Unveiled in Milan, Bvlgari's *Ecllettica* collection spans over 160 creations, including nine high jewelry *Capolavori* and a series of transformable pieces. With insights from Fabrizio Buonamassa Stigliani, it reflects a closer dialogue between jewelry and watchmaking

Presented in Milan, *Ecllettica* unfolds across more than 160 pieces, with nine *Capolavori* at its core – high jewelry works defined by exceptional stones and complex construction. Around them sits a broader selection of one-of-a-kind designs, including over 50 high-value creations and a notable number of transformable pieces.

Color and composition lead the collection. A Padparadscha sapphire anchors one of the key necklaces, its pink-orange tone setting the palette. Colombian emeralds appear in structured settings, contrasted with diamonds placed along edges and curves to define line and volume. Across the collection, stones are used to build form, guiding how each piece is read.

Transformability runs throughout. Necklaces extend, detach or shift into new configurations, offering multiple ways of wearing the same piece. The *Serpenti* designs take on a more sculptural presence, with openwork structures and geometric lines shaping the motif into a more architectural form.

The watches follow this approach. Under the direction of Fabrizio Buonamassa Stigliani, the *Piccolissimo* movement supports slimmer profiles and refined proportions, bringing precision and detail into focus across the collection.



We start designing a product because we have the movement in mind. That's how significant the movement is in the creative process.

Many of the designs feel quite sculptural. How do you approach shape and volume? There are no set rules. It's different every time because it depends on the concept we have in mind. For example, the *Octo Finissimo* is very sculpted, while the *Serpenti* is completely rounded. We could also call it eclecticism. It's an interesting aspect of Bvlgari, and that's why we're able to create an event that fully embodies our DNA.

There's a strong mix of materials and gemstones. How do you keep everything balanced? Balance is the most challenging aspect of designing pieces. You have to keep the brand's DNA in mind, stay true to it, and find the right balance.

What's one detail in the collection you think people might not notice at first? It's all about the movement, as the initial focus is on the piece's aesthetics, the gemstones and so on.

In conversation with...

Fabrizio Buonamassa Stigliani

Product Creation Executive Director.

For those discovering *Ecllettica* for the first time, how would you describe the collection? This collection embodies Bvlgari. Eclecticism (*Ecllettica*) is Bvlgari, because we have the ability to blend different styles to create things that don't yet exist. It was Gianni Bulgari who created this legacy with this blend of colors and shapes, which remains as relevant as ever.

What was the starting point when you began working on it? I looked for the Maison's signature elements and aesthetic, and I wanted to take it a step further. Take *Serpenti Dea*, for example. The snake-shaped head plays off a bracelet with a very geometric design. This creates a contrast with its suppleness.

Where do the High-End watches sit within the collection as a whole? This is incredibly important given all the innovations we have today. We offer a range of movements, including new ones like the new *Piccolissimo* movement. It's not just about aesthetics, it's also about technical expertise. Bvlgari's uniqueness is evident not only in its jewelry craftsmanship but also in its dynamic watchmaking expertise.

Which watch best captures the spirit of *Ecllettica* for you? The *Tubogas Manchette*, which plays with the bracelet's highly precise geometry. The colors are represented by the different stones on the bracelet.

How did the *Piccolissimo* micro-movement influence what you were able to create? Sometimes we develop watches because we have the *Piccolissimo* movement, and that's the most important thing.

However, when we turn the object, there's a second surprise: the beauty of the mechanical movement.

After completing *Ecllettica*, what stayed with you the most? We've taken on every challenge, launched our products, and as soon as we finish one collection, we've already started working on the next ones. We take everything we've learned from each collection and apply it to future projects, always improving while staying true to our core values.



SERPENTI DEA SECRET HJW

PAVONE BRACELET HJW

NOTTE STELLATA DIVAS' DREAM HJW

PRECIOUS ACTS

JEWELRY MOVES BETWEEN CRAFT, CULTURE, AND SPECTACLE THIS MONTH. FROM STORIED MAISONS TO POP-CULTURE MOMENTS, THE PIECES CARRY THEIR OWN SENSE OF THEATER



Neckline Notes

A return to the short necklace feels timely, with houses like Chanel, Dior and Messika focusing on pieces that sit close, sharp and deliberate – less about layering, more about impact in a single line.



Stage Presence

Twelve High Jewelry clips from Van Cleef & Arpels revisit the maison's long dialogue with ballet, translating movement into gold, diamonds and vivid stones. Each figurine captures a different performance, from romantic classics to more dramatic compositions, with sculpted silhouettes and intricate costume details that feel almost mid-step.

Scene Stealers!

Tiffany & Co. steps into the spotlight with a cinematic cameo in *The Devil Wears Prada 2*, placing High Jewelry at the center of a Milan-set moment. The collaboration brings its Via Montenapoleone flagship and standout pieces into the film's fabulous fashion narrative.



Elle x Cartier

Clash de Cartier Ring, Rose Gold, Pink Chalcedony.

Clash de Cartier Ring, Rose Gold, Red Agate.



PRECIOUS
THE

Introducing new pieces, *Clash de Cartier* makes a creative statement with its singular architecture. Sensorial and graphic, the collection transforms picot studs and clous de Paris into a living structure of light, defined by the mechanical and the precious.



Clash de Cartier Bracelet,
Flexible, Medium Model,
Yellow Gold.

Clash de Cartier Bracelet,
Flexible, Double Row,
Small Model, Yellow Gold.



Clash de Cartier Hoop Earrings,
Rose Gold, Pink Chalcedony.

Clash de Cartier Hoop Earrings,
Rose Gold, Red Agate.



Clash de Cartier Necklace,
Flexible, Medium Model,
Yellow Gold.

Elle x Cartier



Clash de Cartier Hoop Earrings,
Rose Gold, Onyx.

Clash de Cartier Hoop Earrings,
Rose Gold, Green Agate.



Clash de Cartier Bracelet,
Small Model, White Gold.

Clash de Cartier Ring,
Rose Gold, Green Agate.

Clash de Cartier Ring,
Rose Gold, Onyx.



Story SYLVIA OBELL
Photographer FELIX COOP
Stylist ALEX WHITE

Clash de Cartier Hoop
Earrings, Small Model,
White Gold.

Clash de Cartier Ring,
Small Model, White Gold,
Diamonds.

Clash de Cartier Ring,
Double Row, White Gold.

PHOTOGRAPHER INES DIELEMAN, SET DESIGNER HELENE LEVERRIER, BRAND & VISUAL STRATEGIST ERIN K. LIVINGSTONE, HEAD OF CREATIVITY & INNOVATION, ELLE INTERNATIONAL, AL COSTANZA BRICHINA



The British singer is everywhere, for good reason.

*It's so
easy
to fall
in love
with
Olivia
Dean*

Dress, Chanel; Bracelets &
Rings, Cartier



Jacket, Balenciaga; Shorts,
Dolce & Gabbana; Earrings &
Rings, Cartier



Dress, Gucci. Earrings,
Bracelets & Rings, Cartier



It's Super Bowl weekend, and I'm standing inside a 200,000-square-foot warehouse on a waterfront pier in San Francisco, packed wall-to-wall with people, including more than a few of the sports and entertainment industry's most recognizable faces. Russell Wilson and Ciara glide in, hand in hand, through the dense VIP section. Somewhere in the crush, Cardi B, Jon Hamm, and Ty Dolla\$ign drift between clusters of guests. Big-name athletes fill nearly every corner of the room. The game is still two days away, and on this particular Friday night, Olivia Dean is the headliner everyone has come to see. "This is the first gig I've done since winning a Grammy," Dean says, beaming, from the stage, spinning in a small, giddy circle as the crowd erupts.

In the five days since she took home the Grammy Award for Best New Artist, Dean hasn't had time to come up for air. She's gone straight from music's biggest weekend in Los Angeles to football's biggest in the Bay. This performance, at a Super Bowl kickoff party hosted by Uber, is her final obligation before flying back home to London for a much-needed break. But you wouldn't know that by watching her onstage, radiating bright as a beacon.

A few hours before her performance, I meet with the 27-year-old singer in her suite at The St. Regis to process this triumphant moment in her career in real time. Even offstage, she is still somehow buzzing with energy when I arrive. She greets me warmly with a big smile and a welcoming hug, dressed casually in baggy Levi's, black-and-white polka-dot Manolo Blahnik pumps, and a tight black T-shirt. "I like to set a vibe," she tells me, gesturing to the fragrant Diptyque Baies candles she had been lighting when I walked in. It's just after 5:00 p.m., and the floor-to-ceiling windows frame a perfect sunset over downtown San Francisco. As we settle into the sofa, laughing through a few minutes of small talk, it quickly becomes clear that Dean romanticizes life the way she makes music, turning ordinary moments into ones that feel worth lingering in. When she finds out it's my birthday, she insists on gifting me a bottle of Veuve Clicquot champagne. "Why are you here working?!" she exclaims. "Uh, do you know who you are?! You just won a Grammy!" I shoot back. She shakes her head, hands pressed to her face, laughing softly, still not quite ready to believe it. "My heart is extremely full in a way that is kind of hard to even describe," she says before pausing to search for language that feels proportionate. "I did not think that was going to happen. I can't lie to you. I've never won an award for music before."

Winning one of the most sought-after Grammys as your first-ever award is pretty iconic, but it's a fitting result of the momentum Dean's been riding since the release of *The Art of Loving* in September. While it wasn't her debut—she had already released multiple EPs and a 2023 studio album, *Messy*—it was her first time breaking through on both sides of the Atlantic. The album quickly reached platinum status in the UK and gold in the US, and songs like "So Easy (To Fall in Love)," "Man I Need," and "A Couple of Minutes" went viral across TikTok and Instagram. Add in standout live performances, a Burberry campaign, and critical raves, and Dean became inescapable. When I was finally prompted by her constant appearance on my algorithm to give the album a listen, I was blown away by how quickly the project made a fan out of me. It was a captivating meditation on love, romance, and compassion in a year that felt far too void of those feelings. In three short months, it became my most-listened-to album of 2025.

Dean tucks one leg beneath her on the couch and lifts the other into an easy stretch, catching the heel of her pump in her hand as she begins to reminisce wistfully about sharing space with so many of her musical heroes just a week earlier. "I need to try and explain this properly, so you can truly wrap your head around it," she says. "There I am standing at the Grammys.

I'm looking at Lauryn Hill, and she is doing this amazing D'Angelo tribute. She's in my eyeline. I believe I'm in hers. I don't think she was checking for me, but I was checking her. She won Best New Artist the year I was born, my middle name is Lauryn after her...It was all the most serendipitous full-circle moment. I was just at home in London a couple of weeks ago on my sofa. Then suddenly I'm holding a Grammy, and Queen Latifah's looking at me."

Somehow, between feeling starstruck and in shock, Dean managed to give one of the most heartwarming speeches of the night, dedicated to a more personal hero: "I'm up here as the granddaughter of an immigrant," she said onstage. "I'm a product of bravery, and I think those people deserve to be celebrated...We're nothing without each other." For Dean, the decision to speak about her maternal grandmother, who immigrated to the UK from Guyana at age 18, was natural. "I'd spoken to my mum and my auntie at home, and they said, 'You're a representative of this family, and you're a representative of your grandmother's bravery.' It felt completely sincere in that moment to acknowledge her. I'm living the life that I'm living because of her."

If you're wondering where Dean gets her courage and grit from, look no further than the women who raised her. Women she describes lovingly as fearless and outspoken. "You hear us before you see us," she says with a smile. "But they are real about building community. My auntie's kitchen was such a place of gathering. My mum and I would always be there. They would have their glass of wine. We'd be listening to Angie Stone. They'd be giving me my musical education."

Dean's mother, Christine, is a lawyer who worked in child and family law before going on to become the first Black woman to be deputy leader of the UK's Women's Equality Party, which campaigned for gender equality. Through her, Dean learned the importance of hard work and empowering other women. "My mum would tell me, 'You're going to need to be five times better.' So that's always been in me. I'm not lazy when it comes to what I do. Everything is very intentional. I work hard. And I'm a feminist down to my toes."

Her parents were her first teachers when it came to love. "They've taught me that love is a choice and that it's work," Dean said. "It's not always butterflies and fairy tales. It's consistency. It's choosing to love that person every day, instead of choosing frustration or running away. They've taught me togetherness." Their lessons on unconditional love were also exemplified by their unwavering support of their daughter's decision to pursue music. In fact, it was Dean's mother who suggested she apply to the famed BRIT musical arts school, the same institution that taught singers such as Adele and Amy Winehouse.

For Dean, the BRIT School isn't just where she sharpened her musical senses or discovered her love of songwriting; it's where she found acceptance and the ability to own her authenticity. "It allowed me to free myself from feeling embarrassed about who I was," she explains. "It was so validating to be surrounded by people who thought music was cool, and wanting to shine was cool. Whereas in my previous school, people would make me feel like I was too much. And it's like, 'No, I'm doing too much for you. I'm actually not doing enough yet. I haven't even gotten started.'"

She's hesitant to say she was bullied at earlier schools ("I think I put it in a box and was like, 'No, I wasn't'"), but she admits to finding female friendships quite hard growing up until she met her best friends at BRIT, the closest of whom is still her roommate to this day. "We met on the first day of BRIT, and I was like, 'Girl, I've been eating my lunch in the toilet. Do you want to be friends?'" she recalls. Dean credits her friendships with helping her remain grounded during this very surreal time. "I come home from doing something like the Grammys, and the debrief we'll have is crazy," she says.



Dress, Chanel; Bracelets & Rings, Cartier

“My life can feel quite extreme sometimes, because I’m in these moments of high glamour and kind of preposterousness. I can see how people can get really lost and confused within this industry. You have to be quite mentally strong. I am so lucky that I have spaces outside of this where none of that matters. My friends care, but not more than I care about what they’re doing. My life isn’t more important than anyone else’s life. It’s just mine.”

The strong sense of self that Dean has cultivated is a superpower that runs through her work. She’s deeply confident in both her abilities and her taste, and clear-eyed about the kind of artist she’s becoming. “My purpose in music is to help people, myself included, find compassion and a deeper connection with one another. I believe people are hungry for something more honest and meaningful, something that feeds the soul. I’m attempting to provide space where that kind of connection, conversation, and joy can happen.”

Dean’s commitment to that mission is especially evident in *The Art of Loving*. In an era defined by maximalism and urgency, Dean leans into subtlety—allowing her voice, storytelling, and musical choices to breathe. The album moves through 12 tracks in just 34 minutes, traversing effortlessly across genres like R&B, pop, neo-soul, and beyond. “I’m really drawn to Olivia’s ability to truly master a classic sound rooted in Blackness and soul, and then infuse it with who she is,” says singer Ravyn Lenac, who met Dean when the pair performed at the iHeartRadio Jingle Ball in December 2025 and quickly felt a kinship. “Her stories feel lived in—you can see yourself in them. That’s what my favorite artists are able to do. And something I try to do, too.”

Lyrical, the album embodies Dean’s emotional intelligence; the songs refuse the toxic, lust-driven, and insecurity-soaked narratives that dominate so much of the Hot 100. Instead, she finds ways to sing about self-worth: being discerning in the face of mistreatment (“Let Alone the One You Love”) or walking away from someone you still love (“A Couple Minutes”), resulting in music that feels as good to our nervous system as it does to our ears. It’s an album for healed lover girls—the ones who’ve gone to therapy but still yearn for romance that aligns with their growth.

“That’s where I’m at,” Dean says of the album’s healthy, nuanced perspective on love. “I’ve been in therapy for a long time. It has allowed me to have self-awareness and understand that I really don’t have time to fester in negative emotions toward love and men. It doesn’t serve me. I can be annoyed and hurt, but I try to find perspective and compassion. Reading a lot of bell hooks has also given me that.” She describes her brand of feminist romance as the kind that empowers women to do what’s best for them, while lovingly encouraging men to rise to the occasion. “‘Man I Need’ is a call to action,” Dean explains. “It’s like, ‘I know you can be the man I need if you step up to the plate and be excellent for me. Let me encourage you.’”

But she had no idea the hit single would resonate with as many people as it did. “I knew that I’d made something that I was really proud of, but I also know that doesn’t necessarily translate into success,” she says. “There is so much amazing music out there that doesn’t get heard in the same way, but for some reason, people said, ‘Yeah, we like you, Sis.’ And I’ve said, ‘Thank you. Me too.’” Dean’s fans include 2024’s Best New Artist Grammy winner, Victoria Monét. She says Dean “has this warmth that reaches everybody. It’s a feel-good energy from her that pulls you in. It’s refreshing to see an artist break through and shine on her own terms. She is the exact kind of artist I would love my daughter to look up to.”

While the recognition Dean has received since the album’s release

“My heart is extremely full in a way that is kind of hard to even describe.”

has been a dream, she’s mindful not to let it impact her self-image. She deleted all social media apps from her phone after the Grammys. “I’ve been thinking about doing it for a while,” she says. “Even though the love has been overwhelming, even that is not healthy sometimes. I don’t think you’re supposed to know everyone’s opinion about you. And I’ve decided I want to live in sweet ignorance.” The Grammy win pushed her into a new stratosphere of hashtag discourse—the zone where you become too well-liked for some people’s taste. It’s an unfortunate rite of passage that many accomplished women, especially women of color, find themselves having to navigate. Dean understands that, to paraphrase Audre Lorde, she must define herself for herself, or she would be forced into other people’s fantasies for her and eaten alive. “I find a lot of internet discourse and those things so unproductive. I know who I am, and I know that I’m performing and creating from a pure place. You can’t please everybody. And I have such peace in that.”

Dean was, however, thrilled to find herself mentioned on an app she’ll never delete: The New York Times games. She’s been completing the mini crossword puzzle regularly for the past three years and recently noticed herself as one of the clues. “I threw my phone across the room,” she says. The clue asked for a word to describe Olivia Dean’s and Daniel Caesar’s genre of music. “I guessed wrong!” she says, laughing. “I bet it was R&B. I wouldn’t really say that, guys, but okay, sure.” Jokes aside, Dean is still working on defining success for herself as she navigates this newfound level of celebrity. She’s never been one to get caught up in awards and acclaim. “Success to me is venues and how many people you can gather in one space,” she says. “It’s how many people you can touch.” By that metric, Dean has surpassed her own expectations. Tickets for her first headlining North American arena tour sold out so quickly, many to resale bots, that her OG fan base found itself priced out. It’s a problem many popular musical acts have faced, but Dean was one of the few to demand a fix from Ticketmaster, which eventually refunded fans who were overcharged by resellers and agreed to cap prices moving forward. Dean hopes it sets a precedent that helps other artists push back, especially

since they don’t share in profits made on the secondary market. “There is no way that I’m going to get up on that stage and sing my heart out while somebody sits at home and makes \$500, \$600 off of me and you,” she says. “I want people to be able to afford to come to the show. I don’t think you need to be someone who’s got loads of money to enjoy your favorite album. Full stop.” The tour begins April 22 in the UK, with North American dates throughout July and August. Dean says fans can expect a shared experience where everyone comes prepared to sing along and dance, a dose of fashion (she’s tight-lipped on details, but I get a wink when I ask if each city will get a custom look), and songs she hasn’t performed live before.

Performing has always been Dean’s favorite part of her artistry. “That’s where I feel the most confident and comfortable,” she says. “It’s where what I’ve made can really breathe, and we can just play, and it feels fresh and exciting.” Dean’s playful spirit comes through most clearly onstage. Watching a young Black woman move throughout the world with such freedom, softness, and unburdened optimism feels comforting and, in its own way, radical. “I feel like sometimes it’s my responsibility to show that we can be that,” she says. “My joy is more powerful than whatever you think about me or how I should be presenting. I’ll always choose joy. I want to be happy. This job is too amazing for me not to enjoy it. That would be such a kicker if I’d worked this hard and then realized that I wasn’t enjoying it. I’ve got to have as much fun as possible.”

HAIR BY SOPHIE JANE ANDERSON; MAKEUP BY CELIA BURTON FOR HOURGLASS COSMETICS; MANICURE BY ELIA VIVI FOR ESSIE; PRODUCED BY MIMX ARTISTS.



Cartier

REINS

*Photographer FOUAD TADROS
Creative Director & Stylist JADE CHILTON*

OF

Between strength and softness, movement and stillness, a new rhythm takes shape. Here, Chanel Première Watches become more than timekeepers - they're expressions of control, grace, and enduring style.

TIME



Première Edition Originale
Watch in Steel and Yellow
Gold, Chanel Watches.
Coco Crush Hoops,
Earrings and Bracelets in
Yellow and Beige Gold,
Chanel Fine Jewelry

Coco Crush Supple
Choker in White Gold
with Diamonds; Coco
Crush Earring and Earcuff
in Beige And White Gold
With Diamonds, Chanel
Fine Jewelry



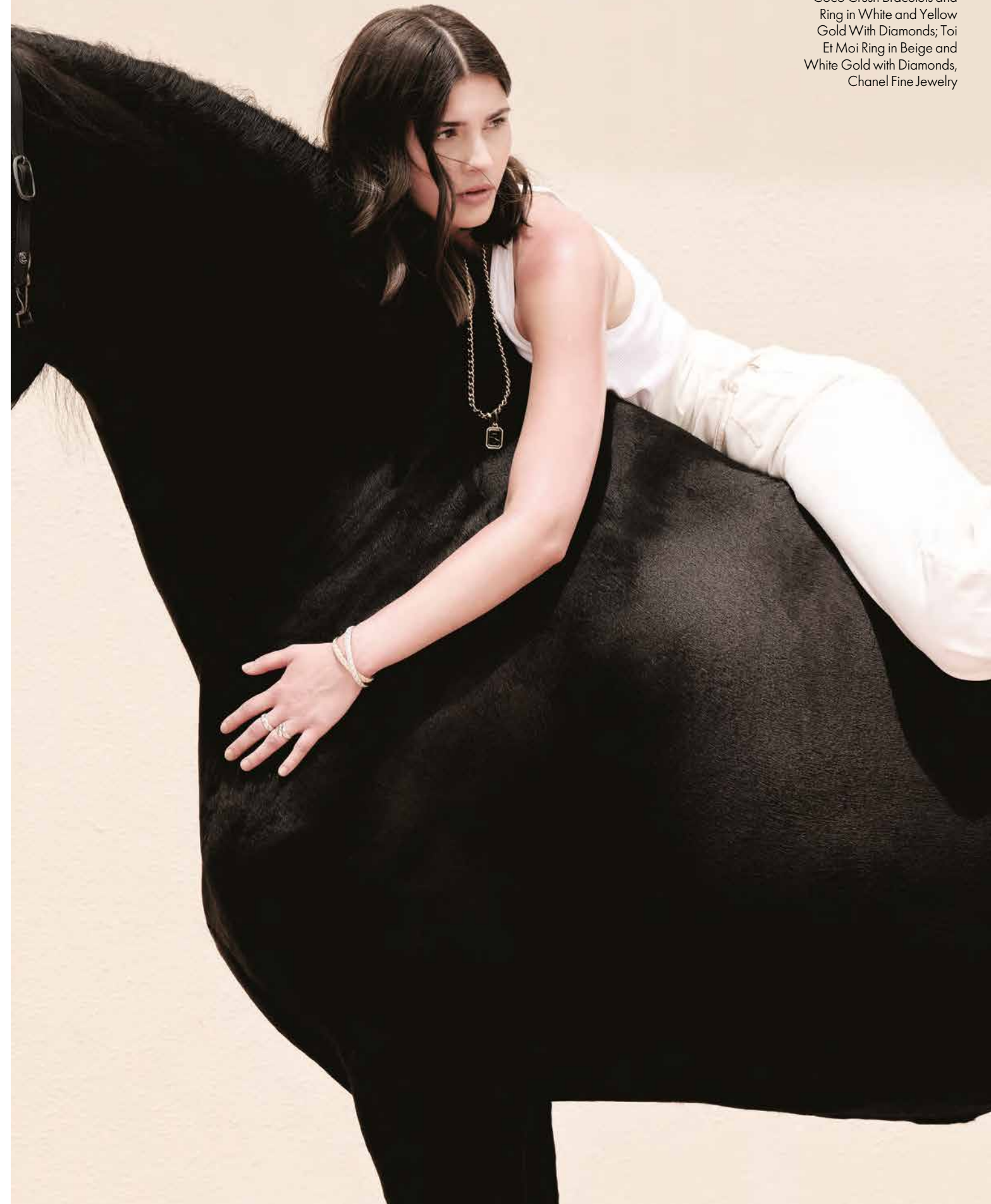
Première Sautoir-Belt
Limited Edition Watch, In
Steel and Yellow Gold,
Chanel Watches





Première Iconic Chain
Double Row Watch in
Steel and Yellow Gold
with Black-lacquered Dial
Chanel Watches, Coco
Crush Rings in Yellow
Gold with Diamonds,
Chanel Fine Jewelry

Première Iconic Chain
Necklace Limited Edition
Watch in Steel and Yellow
Gold, Chanel Watches;
Coco Crush Bracelets and
Ring in White and Yellow
Gold With Diamonds; Toi
Et Moi Ring in Beige and
White Gold with Diamonds,
Chanel Fine Jewelry



Première Iconic Chain
Double Row Watch in
Steel and Yellow Gold
with Black-Lacquered Dial,
Chanel Watches; Coco
Crush Earrings and Earcuffs
in White And Yellow Gold
With Diamonds, Chanel
Fine Jewelry



Jewelry



Première Galon Watch in
Yellow Gold Rigid Braid Motif
Bracelet, Chanel Watches



PHOTOGRAPHER: FOUAD FAROUC, CREATIVE DIRECTOR & STYLIST: JADE CHILTON; HAIR: IVANNA; MAKEUP: MICHEL KIWIKI; MODEL: YIKA @ JEEI; LOCATION: AL HABTOOR PHOTO CLUB

Première Sautoir-Belt Limited Edition Watch, In Steel and Yellow Gold, Chanel Watches



Première Galon Watch in Yellow Gold Rigid Braid Motif Bracelet, Chanel Watches; Coco Rings in White and Yellow Gold With Diamonds, Chanel Fine Jewelry

Expanded compass rose designs set with stones including turquoise, tiger's eye and pink opal



In focus:
**GUIDED BY
 SIGNS**

Limited to 15 pieces, the sautoir-style timepiece can also be worn at the waist

Victoire de Castellane expands the Rose des Vents universe with celestial symbols, vibrant stones, and new talismanic forms rooted in *Christian Dior's* enduring codes

First imagined as a tribute to the mosaic floors of Dior's Granville home, Rose des Vents continues to evolve as a language of signs. This new chapter leans into color, movement, and personal meaning, with pieces designed to be worn close and layered with ease.



A concealed watch medallion blends jewelry and horology and is suspended on a chain detailed with Dior's symbolic charms



A first for color with vivid agates, sapphires, garnets and golden mother-of-pearl inspired by shifting light and sky

Rose Céleste evolves with sun, moon and the signature eight-pointed star reworked into reversible medallions across necklaces, bracelets and earrings



Signature motifs return, from the bee to lily of the valley



Earrings: Bvlgari Divas' Dream stud earrings in yellow gold with black onyx and pavé diamonds
Necklace: Bvlgari Divas' Dream necklace in rose gold with pavé diamonds
Necklace: Bvlgari Divas' Dream necklace in yellow gold necklace with black onyx and diamonds
Bracelet: Bvlgari Serpenti bracelet in rose gold with pavé diamonds on the head and tail, and black onyx eyes
Ring: Bvlgari Serpenti Viper in rose gold with full pavé diamonds
Dress: Tods Dress

L I G H T P L A Y

Loulwa brings her fresh, modern energy to Bvlgari's signatures, tracing clean lines through gold and sculptural forms. Serpenti Viper coils in pavé-set gold, Divas' Dream plays with mother-of-pearl and onyx, while B.zero1 anchors the mix with its bold, architectural lines.

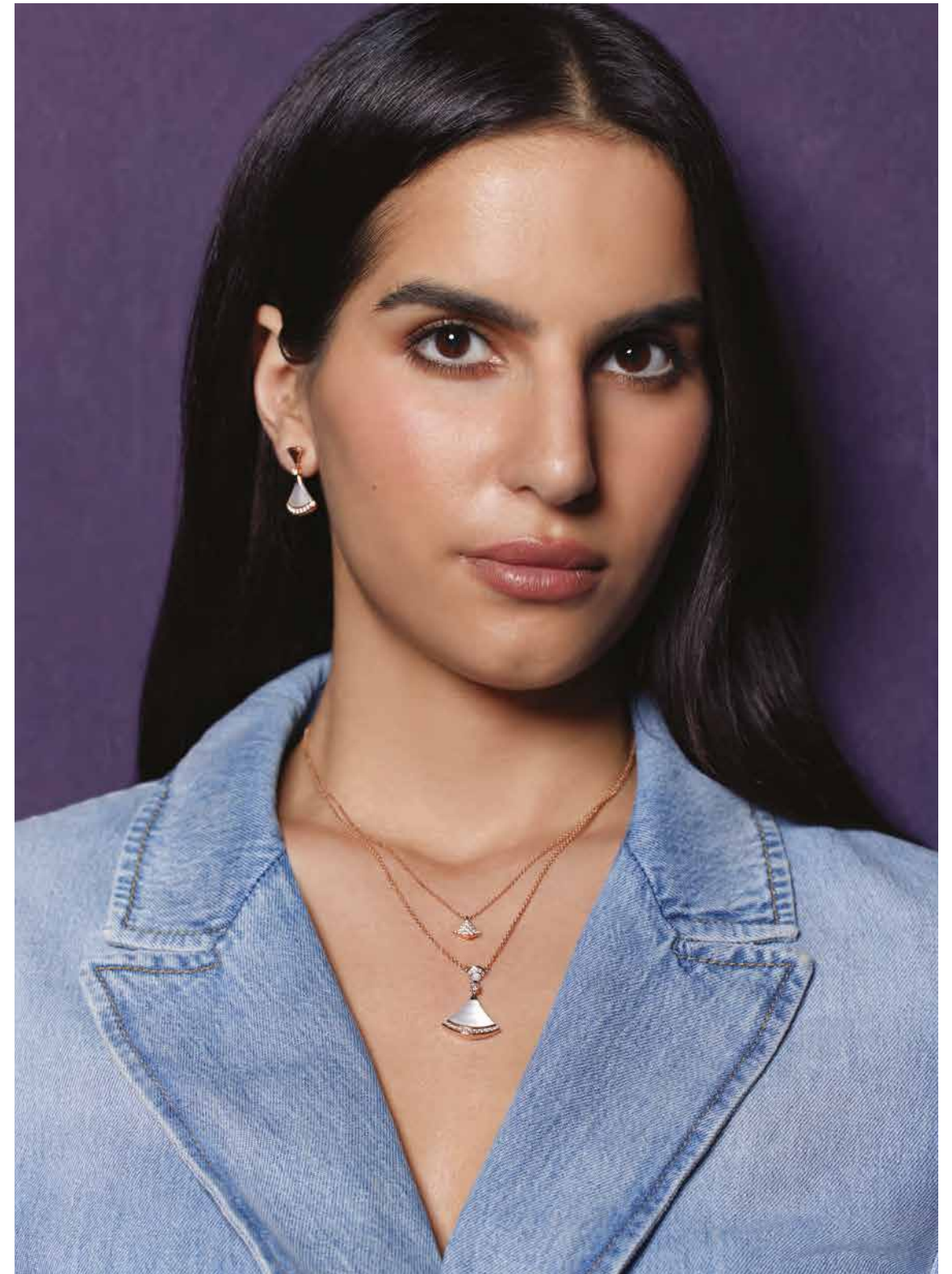
*Photographer SAMER RAWADI
Stylist DANIEL NEGRON*

Earrings: Bvlgari Divas' Dream stud earrings in yellow gold with black onyx and pavé diamonds
Necklace: Bvlgari Divas' Dream necklace in rose gold with pavé diamonds
Necklace: Bvlgari Divas' Dream necklace in yellow gold necklace with black onyx and diamonds
Look: Tods



Earrings: Bvlgari Serpenti Viper hoop earrings in white gold with pavé diamonds on the head and tail
Necklace: Bvlgari Serpenti Viper necklace chain and pendant in white gold with pavé diamonds on the head and tail
Bracelet: Bvlgari Serpenti Viper bracelet in white gold
Ring: Bvlgari B.zero 1 three-band ring in white gold with full pavé diamonds along its edges
Watch: Bvlgari watch (23mm) with stainless steel case and bracelet, pink mother-of-pearl dial and diamond indexes, quartz movement, waterproof 30m
Dress & Skirt: Cos

Necklace: Bvlgari Serpenti Viper necklace in yellow gold with pavé diamonds on the head and tail
Bracelet: Bvlgari Serpenti Viper bracelets in yellow gold with pavé diamonds on the head and tail
Ring: Bvlgari Tubogas ring in yellow gold with pavé diamonds
Dress: Other Stories



Earrings: Bvlgari Divas' Dream drop earrings in rose gold with mother-of-pearl and diamonds
Necklace: Bvlgari Divas' Dream necklace in rose gold with pavé diamonds
Necklace: Bvlgari Divas' Dream necklace in rose gold with mother-of-pearl and diamonds
Look: Marella

Jewelry

Earrings: Bvlgari Serpenti Viper pendant earrings in yellow gold with pavé diamonds on the head and tail;
Necklace: Bvlgari B.zero1 Rock necklace in yellow gold with studded pendant set with black ceramic
Bracelet: Bvlgari Serpenti Viper bracelet in yellow gold with pavé diamonds on the head and tail; **Ring:** Bvlgari B.zero1 three-band ring in yellow gold; **Ring:** Bvlgari Serpenti Viper in rose gold with full pavé diamonds
Set: Sportmax



PHOTOGRAPHER: SAMER BAWAZI; STYLIST: DANIEL NEESON; HAIR: STYLIST IVA; MAKEUP: ARTIST IVA; TALENT: LOULWA; VIDEOGRAPHER: ALENI; LOCATION: AUD



Necklace: Bvlgari B.zero1 necklace in rose gold chain and pendant with pavé diamonds on the edges
Bracelet: Bvlgari B.zero1 bangle bracelets in rose gold and yellow gold
Ring: Bvlgari B.zero1 three-band ring in yellow gold
Coat: Magda Butrym; Trouser: Cos; Heels: Tom Ford

True notes

Singer and performer Hiba Tawaji opens up on music, identity and navigating a moment shaped by uncertainty and emotion. Moving between stage and studio, she reflects on what it means to create, to pause and to keep going. The mood of Gucci Pre-Fall 2026 mirrors that sense of ease, strength and quiet confidence.

*Photographer ARTEM KONONENKO
Creative Direction DIALA BASSATNE
Styling FAROUK CHEKOUFI*

Grey Fine Silk Jacket, Black Turtle Neck Top, Black Fine Silk Pant, Medium Shoulder Bag In Black, Naturally Glossy Leather With Silver-Toned Piston Closure And Additional Shoulder Strap. All Gucci

Grey Fine Silk Jacket,
Black Turtle Neck Top,
Black Fine Silk Pant,
Medium Shoulder Bag
In Black, Naturally
Glossy Leather With
Silver-Toned Piston
Closure And Additional
Shoulder Strap,
Boulevard Pump Shoes.
All Gucci



White Fine Silk Jacket,
White Fine Silk Skirt,
Boulevard Pump
Shoes. All Gucci

Shearling Coat, Silk Printed Dress, Medium Chain Shoulder Bag In Black Lizard With Tigerhead Closure, Boulevard Pumps. All Gucci



Nappa Leather Bomber Jacket, Black Fitted Top, Washed Cotton Denim Pants, Boulevard Pump Shoes, Medium Shoulder Bag in Brown Soft, Naturally Glossy Leather with Silver-Toned Piston Closure and Additional Shoulder Strap. All Gucci

Black Silk Shirt, Silk
Printed Skirt, Pink Canvas
Pumps. All Gucci



Light Viscose Dress, Black
Stiletto Boots. All Gucci

In conversation with...
HIBA TAWAJI

How are you feeling in this moment of your life? Like so many Lebanese, I'm heartbroken watching my country relive this cycle of pain and destruction, with families being shattered again. What's happening in the region, especially in Lebanon, carries an unbearable weight, and we're living through deep uncertainty. In times like these, you learn to carry both hope and grief at once. We don't want to be defined only by resilience; we want to truly live. We're tired of rebuilding over and over, yet we remain people who love life and keep moving forward. As an artist, I feel responsible to use my platform to speak up, stand against war, and give voice to what so many are experiencing. Music carries a deeper commitment. Just as people continue going to work despite everything, we must continue creating. It's a form of resistance and what defines us as artists.

What first drew you to performing? Singing came very naturally to me from a young age. I was always surrounded by music, with both my parents singing at home. I loved discovering and singing along to legendary vocalists who deeply inspired me. It started as something personal: I would sing alone in my room because of how it made me feel. Over time, singing for others and seeing their reactions turned that love into a desire to be on stage. That emotional connection is what still drives me today.

What did The Voice: la plus belle voix change for you personally? When I was approached to participate in The Voice France in 2015, I had already built my career in the Middle East, so it felt like a risk. But I decided to take that leap, because sometimes you need to step out of your comfort zone. Looking back, it was a turning point. The show gave me visibility with a much wider audience, especially in France, which was one of my main goals as a Lebanese, francophone, trilingual artist. My journey on the show was widely covered by the media, and although there were constraints, I kept the bigger picture in mind. It opened many doors, including being chosen to play Esmeralda in Notre-Dame de Paris, which became a major international chapter in my career.

How has working with Oussama Rahbani shaped your sound? Working with Oussama Rahbani has been one of the most defining relationships in my artistic journey. We started collaborating in 2007, and since then we've released albums, performed concerts, and worked on musical plays together. He has been my producer in the Middle East, and over time this collaboration has deeply shaped my sound. What we built is an identity rooted in authenticity. I believe every artist needs a clear identity to stand out and stay true to themselves rather than follow trends. I've learned to embrace my strengths and what makes me unique, while still exploring new directions from a place of authenticity. He constantly challenges me, and our open communication is what pushes the work forward. After nearly 20 years of collaboration, that longevity speaks for itself.

What does it mean to you, as an artist, to be present at major cultural events on the global stage, such as the reopening of Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral, and what do milestones like your concert at the Olympia represent? The reopening of Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral was an incredibly profound moment for me on a personal, spiritual, and artistic level. As a Franco-Lebanese artist, being part of this historic event carried a deep sense of honor and responsibility. Singing "Ave Maria" from the Notre-Dame musical at the cathedral itself, accompanied by Maestro Gustavo Dudamel and the Radio France Philharmonic

Orchestra, was a powerful full-circle moment. Performing it in such a symbolic place gave it a universal dimension, a moment of unity, love, and peace. My concert at the Olympia in Paris was a reflection of years of work and evolution. It felt like a celebration shared with family, friends, and artists I admire, including Lara Fabian and Florent Pagny. Both moments represent important milestones, one rooted in cultural heritage and global significance, the other in personal expression and artistic growth.

What does your recent recognition by the Lebanese president mean to you? Receiving the Cedar Medal from President Joseph Aoun is a deeply meaningful moment in my journey. It represents both pride and responsibility and is rooted in a deep love for Lebanon, my homeland, which has shaped my identity and artistic sensitivity. This recognition reflects not only what I have achieved in Lebanon and abroad, but also strengthens my commitment to continue representing Lebanon with authenticity and building bridges through music internationally.

What are you working on next? I'm currently working on several projects. One is *À la Française*, a tribute album to French chanson, co-produced with my husband Ibrahim Maalouf. It revisits iconic French songs with orchestral, jazz, and Middle Eastern influences, featuring the Orchestre Symphonique de la Garde Républicaine and a cinematic approach. We released the first single on Valentine's Day, with more to follow ahead of the full album launch on September 18th, which is also our wedding anniversary. A major tour will follow, with more than 30 dates across Europe, Canada, the UAE, and beyond. I am also working on two new albums with Universal Arabic Music: one Arabic album with Oussama Rahbani, currently in production, and one original French album with collaborators from France and the United States.

What does success mean to you now? Success today has many layers for me. It is alignment, being proud of what I create, staying true to my identity, and having a meaningful impact. It's also about balance, being present as a mom while continuing my artistic journey. It's about sharing my work with a growing audience around the world, and about longevity. After almost 20 years, I feel grateful and look forward to what's ahead. Ultimately, it's about being the best version of myself as a mother, an artist, and a human.

How do you stay grounded? I stay grounded by staying close to my roots. My family, my kids, my culture, and the simple things that remind me who I am. Perspective is everything, especially during difficult times. I try to move with empathy, awareness, and compassion.

How do you take care of your voice and body? It's about balance, discipline, and listening to myself. Rest is part of the work. I regularly do vocal exercises with my coach to maintain strength and consistency. I try to stay active and take care of my body, while keeping a balanced approach to food. Equally important is making space for rest, family time, travel, and moments of slowing down.

How would you describe your off-duty style? Off-duty, my style is effortless, simple, but intentional. I gravitate toward comfortable pieces with a subtle touch of personality and refinement. Neutrals, jeans, oversized blazers, and relaxed silhouettes make me feel at ease and quietly confident. Which look from the Gucci cover shoot felt closest to you? The oversized blazer with tailored pants felt closest to me – effortless, refined, and comfortable. I also connected with the short dress paired with the oversized jacket, which had a bold yet playful energy.

TALENT: HIBA TAWAJI; PHOTOGRAPHY: ARTEM KONONENKO; CREATIVE DIRECTION: DIANA BASSATINE; STYLIST: FIMOUK CHERKOUT; HAIRSTYLIST: CHRISTOPHE MECCA; MAKEUP ARTIST: RAFFAËLE ROMAGNOLI; LOCATION: LA PÉROUSE PARIS



Black Fine Silk Jacket, Black Turtleneck Top, Black Fine Silk Pant. All Gucci

In her own depth

Rising Egyptian actress Gehad Hossam El Din is quietly carving out a space for complex, emotionally charged storytelling. With standout roles across film and television, she's fast becoming one of the industry's most compelling talents. This season, she opens up about intensity, instinct, and the characters that linger long after the cameras stop rolling.



This year has been very busy for you, especially with Karetha Tabe'eya, Efrag, and your recent Ramadan roles. How did you experience this season professionally and personally? This year was extremely busy and intense, and I learned a lot throughout it. The experience began with the series Karetha Tabe'eya, followed by Efrag, and I feel that I witnessed a real expansion in my career as an actress, because of how different the two experiences were and the challenges and lessons each role carried. I can say it was a successful start to the year, full of pressure and continuous experiences, but I'm happy with that.

Your recent characters have been complex and very emotional. What draws you to this type of role at this stage? What always draws me in are characters with deep emotional layers and strong reactions, because by nature, this is how I see life. Whether through the news, the people I meet, or what I read, my mind always goes to the question: "Why did this happen?" I automatically enter a state of psychological or social analysis to understand people's motivations and backgrounds, and for me, that is a kind of passion and desire to understand.

Efrag carries a very specific energy: fast, tense, and unpredictable. What moment from filming has stayed with you? The moment that stayed with me the most was a scene with Hatem Salah, when I went with him to the hotel so he wouldn't harm my family, and at the same time I began to realize that he was an evil person. I remember feeling extremely sad, and after finishing the scene, I remained affected and unsettled for a while, even though that doesn't usually happen to me after filming.

There is something bold about the characters you play, even when they are uncomfortable to watch. Do you ever hesitate before accepting a role? I don't think I hesitate as much as I make sure to study the role carefully and understand its dimensions. I'm not afraid of roles that may be unlikable or uncomfortable, because I believe these roles carry real value. I'm drawn to grey and complex characters that are neither purely good nor purely evil. When I look at a role and clearly see its motivations and layers, and feel that I have something to add through it, I never hesitate. And honestly, the audience often supports me more when I present something that carries a real challenge.

Looking at your trajectory, there's a clear shift toward more complex storytelling. Do you feel like you're becoming more selective with



your roles? From the beginning, I've been selective to a certain extent, even though it's not easy at the start of a career, because an actor needs experience and must benefit from available opportunities. But I've always had something like an "inner scale" that tells me whether a project is worth it or not. It's not just a rational decision, but a strong inner feeling. Sometimes there are projects you simply can't say no to, because a good script makes it impossible to refuse. For example, the film 32B Mashakel Dakheya, which is currently participating in festivals, directed by Mohamed Taher and starring Mohamed Mamdouh, Hanan Sheha, and Ahmed Dash. I read it in just 10 minutes, then closed the script deeply moved and told them: "The script is beautiful, I'm in."

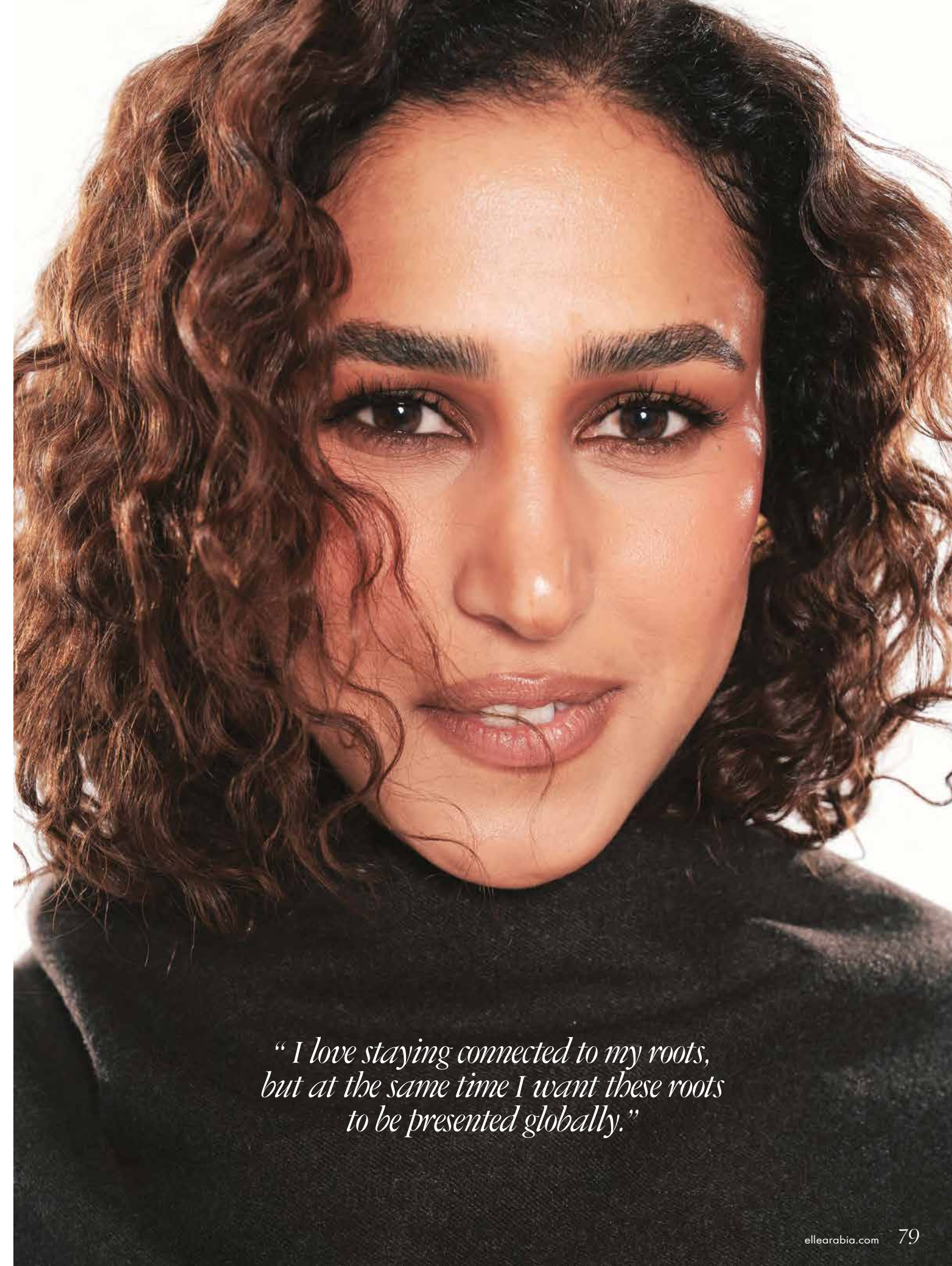
When you watch yourself back, are you critical or do you let it go? At the beginning, I couldn't watch myself, and my inner critical voice was always present, so I was very harsh on myself without realizing that any artist's journey naturally goes through stages and steps. It wasn't logical to expect myself to reach a strong level from day one. But over time, I started to learn how to watch myself more calmly. I still critique and notice details, but I no longer allow criticism to turn into harshness. I now see it as part of the journey of growth, not a test of perfection.

With projects like Berlin coming up, are you thinking more globally, or staying rooted in stories that feel close to home? I love staying connected to my roots, but at the same time I want these roots to be presented globally. A project like Berlin, for example, tells the story of Egyptians and Arabs living in Europe. I enjoy telling stories from Egypt and the Arab world that reach the world, because that is the language of communication I can be part of. I see it as a big responsibility, and it's important that stories from our region are presented globally. We deserve to be present and heard, and to tell our story in our own way.

If we met you again this time next year, what would you want to have changed — or evolved? I hope that by next year I will have taken on roles that are more

daring and deeper, that push me into real challenges and reveal new spaces within me as an actress, through characters that connect honestly with people and explore social aspects that are not often highlighted.

I aspire to be part of stories that express what some people are unable to say, and give the audience a feeling of being understood and heard, and for the connection between us to continue through honest work that leaves an impact and stays.



"I love staying connected to my roots, but at the same time I want these roots to be presented globally."

1-9

May
The ATHR Gallery in AIUla, KSA welcomes visitors to explore the works of Sara Abdu titled 'Intimate Architectures of Belonging' which is taking place as part of the AIUla Arts Festival. Exploring the depths of memory, home, and identity, this poetic presentation is a trip down memory lane with sculptural works that evoke memory and familiar rituals. Made of wax, henna tiles, and bukhooor, there's a sense of nostalgia that is worth holding onto, forever.



1-17

May
Mark your diaries for the return of Dubai Restaurant Week that will see more than 125 restaurants across Dubai welcome diners to relish dishes from over 25 cuisines. Think curated set menus for lunch, and dinner, offering a little bit of everything from fine dining to homegrown, and award-winning favourites.
Must-Try: UAE's fine dining concept Gerbou which celebrates Emirati hospitality and culture, led by Chef Ninad Naresh Salvi.
The OG Factor: Enjoying a taste dished out by over 30 Michelin listed restaurants and world-renowned chefs including Nobu Matsuhisa, Gordon Ramsay, Izu Ani, Alvin Leung, Akira Back, Kelvin Cheung, and Hadrien Villedieu.
Book exclusively via Careem DineOut



The MAY EDIT

This month arrives with a much-needed sense of hope. To help you renew and revive your spirits, here's a curated list of events and experiences across fashion, art, wellness, and culture to keep you in the best state of mind and body.



2

May
Offering a mix of modern art, cultural heritage, and over 65 participating artists, the Diriyah Contemporary Art Biennale 2026 in Riyadh, KSA is not to be missed. Showcasing over 25 new commissions, and led by co-artistic directors Nora Razian and Sabih Ahmed, the title of this year 'In Interludes and Transitions' is explored through a lens that brings the past and present together. The scenography of the exhibition by design studio Formafantasma is sure to leave a lasting impression behind as visitors move through an immersive space spanning exhibition halls, courtyards, and terraces within the JAX creative district.

1-18

May
If you're a proud resident of the UAE and wish to participate in a collective exhibition to honor the city of dreams, hope, and tolerance, this is your chance. Maryam Al Falasi, founder of Iris Projects in Abu Dhabi is inviting all UAE-based creatives to participate in the 'Still We Create: A Living Memory Collective' rolling out an open call for submissions in any format. Writers, artists, poets, designers, and photographers are invited to express their love for the nation, which will be reviewed by a committee for selection. The final exhibition and publication of these works will be released towards the end of the year, and submissions are open until 18th of May. *Follow @irisprojects or email info@irisprojects.online*



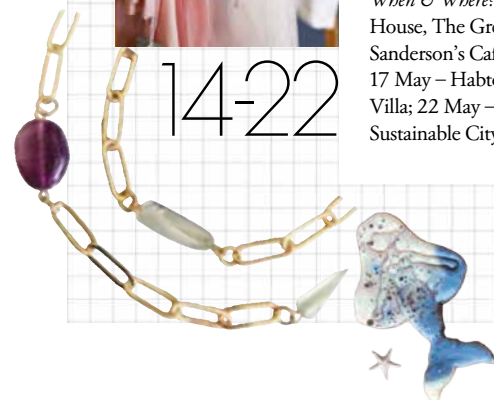
9-10

May
If you can't get enough of the Devil Wears Prada, perhaps the upcoming Fashion Masterclass will serve to satisfy your fashion fever. Join Jelizaveta Kozlova, founder of EK LABORATORY the brain-child behind the homegrown initiative to support the fashion community in the Middle East. The two-day event in partnership with d3 (Dubai Design District) is positioned to encourage dialogue between creative industry professionals, executives, entrepreneurs, opinion leaders, students, and industry entrants offering real-world insights into what goes on in behind-the-scenes. What to expect? Panel discussions, curated workshops, networking sessions, and exclusive guest experiences. Fashion Masterclass Dubai Vol.2 will take place from 10:30am to 6:00pm at Dubai Design District, Building 11. *For details follow @thefashionmasterclass*



14-22

May
The MINT marketplace supports homegrown brands across sustainable fashion, jewelry, beauty, homeware and more with pop-ups spread across Dubai and focusing on conscious shopping offering a variety of knick-knacks for gifts, parties, home, décor, and more.
When & Where? 14 May – Zabeel House, The Greens; 15 May – Sanderson's Café, The Sustainable City; 17 May – Habtoor Polo Resort, The Villa; 22 May – Sanderson's Café, The Sustainable City.



11

May
February 28th is forever marked in history. The day that inspired artists to uniquely interpret it. Now unveiled at the Tabari Artspace gallery in DIFC, a group exhibition aptly titled 'Same Air' reveals the work of 14 artists connected to the Gulf, each showcasing their work produced in response to the shared moment of disruption – each one breathing the same air. Discover works by the likes of Tagreed Darghouth, Chafa Ghaddar, Maitha Abdalla, Zeinab Alhashemi and others. Tabariartspace.com



14-23

May
Ever since the first edition in 1972, the annual Doha International Book Fair has been attracting visitors of all ages. This year, the fair celebrates its 35th edition welcoming visitors, authors, and publishers eager to discover stories from the region. From networking opportunities to literary seminars, the theme for the year is 'From Engraving to Writing' and is sure to pique the interest of younger authors. Since the previous year featured a dedicated children's pavilion, and celebrated the Outstanding Publisher and Young Qatari Writer, this year is worth the wait to witness the latest emerging talents. While it is free entry for all, make sure to check details if you are keen on exploring the daily schedule. *Visit www.dohabookfair.qa/en*





May 15-17

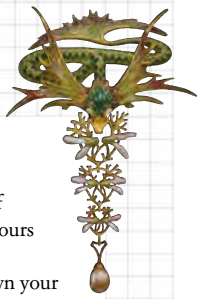
Art Dubai 2026 presents a special edition this year taking place at the Madinat Jumeirah. Celebrating the artists, galleries, institutions, and communities that have shaped the art scene in the region for twenty-years, the format will offer visitors a chance to explore and discover galleries and artists from the region, all contributing to the evolving dialogue which serves to bring people together from all walks of life. A testament to the diverse culture of the UAE, this art fair will feature large-scale installations, talks, screenings and performances alongside site-responsive artworks including works by Khalid Al Banna, Hashel Al Lamki, Rashid Bin Shabib, Ahmed Bin Shabib and others. www.artdubai.ae

Don't Miss: Made Forward, a major presentation from the Dubai Collection – the city's first institutional collection of modern and contemporary art.



May 19

Discover the history of gemstones and wear yours with the knowledge it commands to truly own your energy. If you've ever believed in the energy of a person, the series of online talks by L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts just might of interest. *What?* The first-ever online program is free and guided by L'ÉCOLE's art historians, gemmologists and jewellers. *Where?* The series of one-hour talks and live-reading sessions are held online. The talks are curated to give you insights on the history and meaning of gemstones carried across the world and different cultures. *When?* The Amber session takes place on May 19th. For the full schedule and more details, visit www.lecole.vancleefarpels.com (L'ecole)



May 15

One of the most interesting exhibitions in Qatar taking place this year is 'Resolutions: Celebrating 15 years of Mathaf'. The Arab Museum of Modern Art is exploring the legacy of Mathaf, looking to the past, reviving institutional memory, and exploring discussions on the visual identity of the Arab world in a global context. Running until August 8th the exhibition presents diverse regional narratives through a display of its permanent collection of modern and contemporary art. The special focus 'Infrastructure: Traces of a Legacy' is curated by Fatima Mostafawi, and features the works of artist and collector, Sheikh Hassan bin Mohammed bin Ali Al Thani, giving visitors a rich perspective of the art scene in Doha, and how it emerged over the years. For details visit www.mathaf.org.qa/en/



May 22

Have you been feeling unsettled and uncertain lately? If so, you aren't alone and the latest 'Open Door Initiative' is just what you need to sign up for to regain a sense of emotional, mental and physical balance. Organized by BlackBrick Property, a global property and lifestyle advisory firm founded in Dubai in 2021, the concept of wellness events conceived by CEO and founder Matthew Bate is set to put the calm back into regular routines. View the full schedule at www.blackbrickproperty.com *What?* The complimentary wellness events include outdoor bootcamp sessions, sophrology, surf fitness, and beach reset challenges, all led by qualified wellness professionals, and take place at different locations all through the summer. *Where?* We recommend the Viking's Adult's Surf Fit taking place at Sunset Beach, Dubai every Friday in May from 6:30am to 7:30am. All sessions are open to community members at no cost.



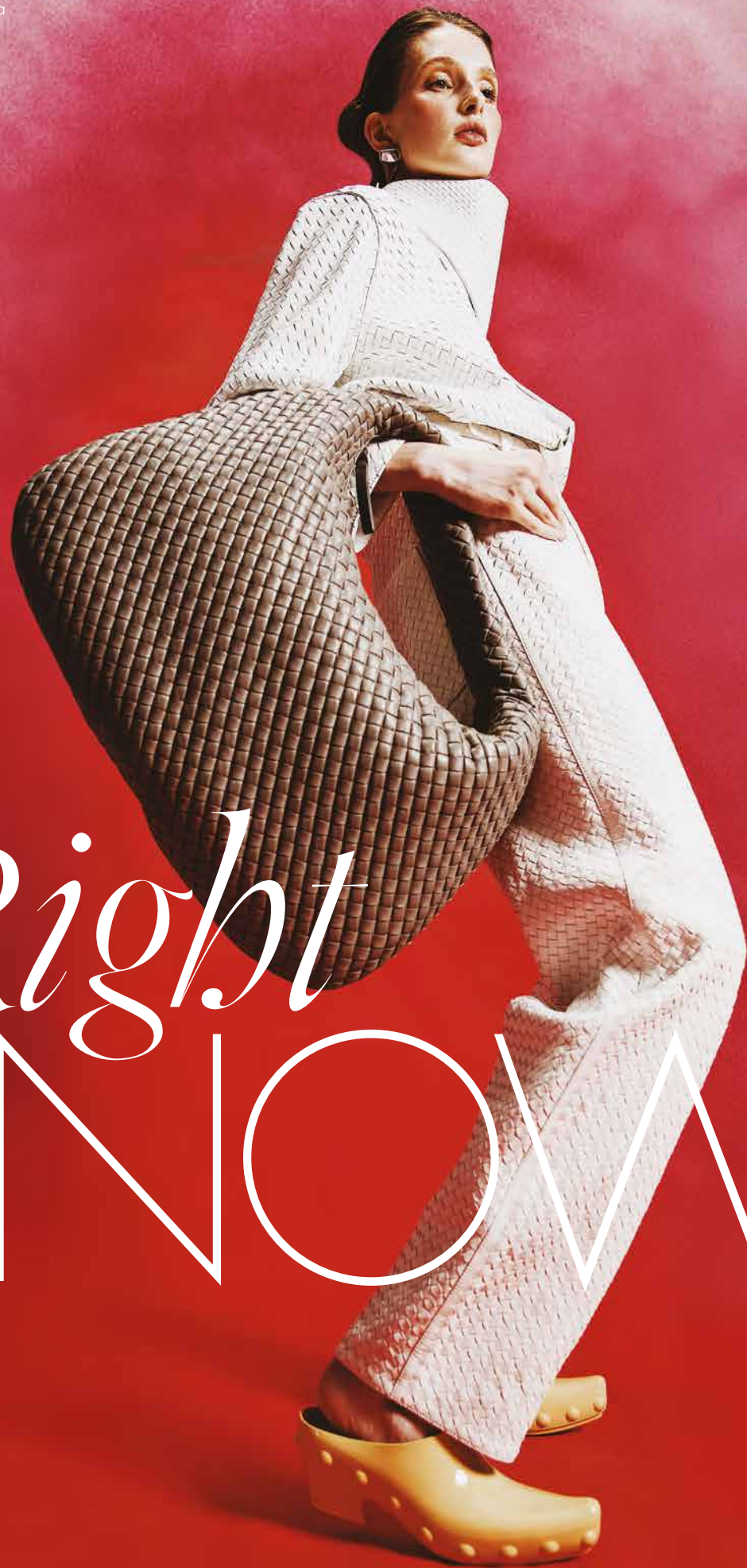
ELLE

fashion

SALT AIR
Loewe Paula's Ibiza 2026 captures a sun-drenched ease, where crafted textures and undone silhouettes carry a relaxed, beach-to-city rhythm with a slightly offbeat edge.

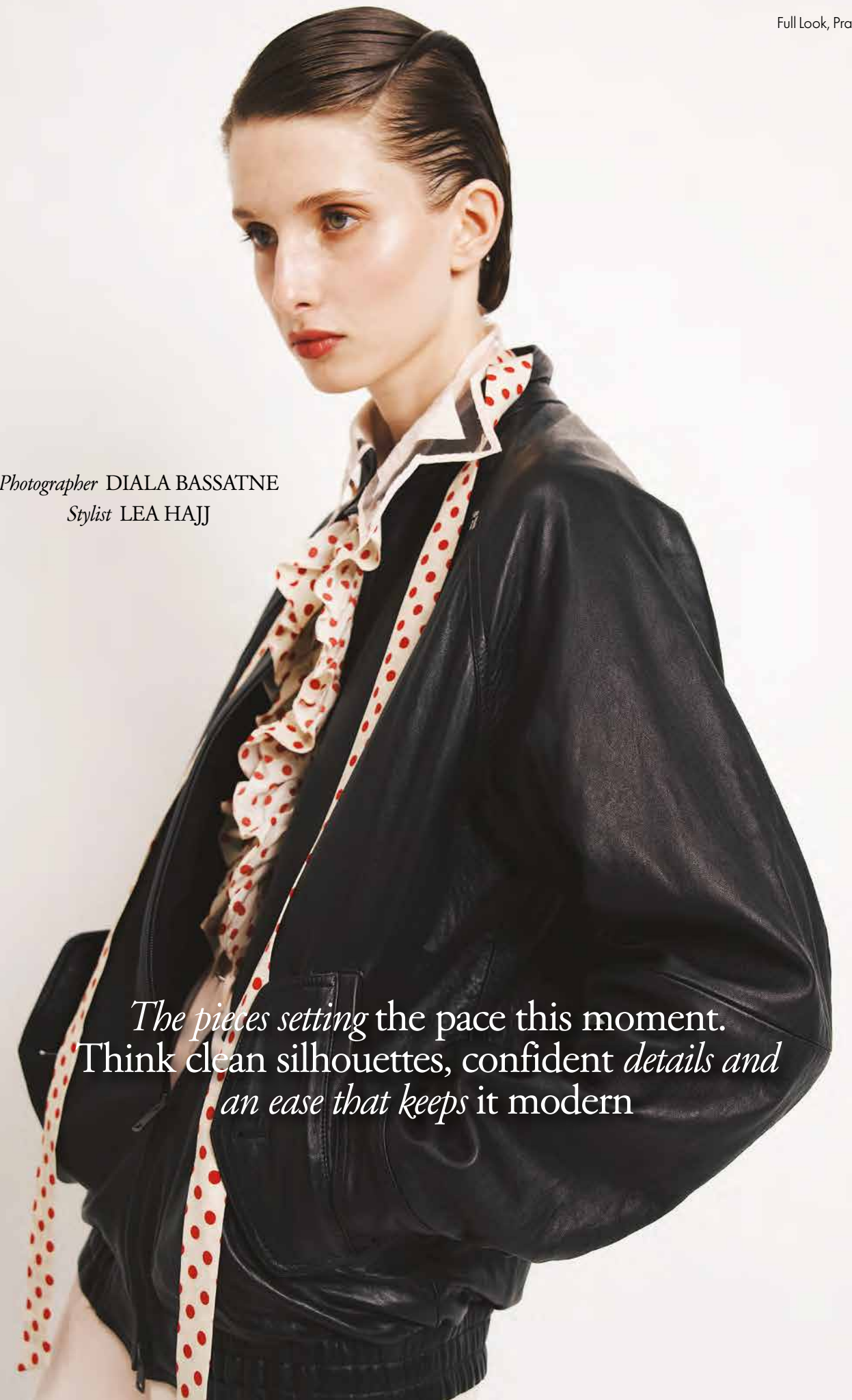
In Frame

A SOFTER MOOD CARRIES THROUGH,
WHERE SILHOUETTES LOOSEN AND
TEXTURES COME FORWARD



Right NOW

Photographer DIALA BASSATNE
Stylist LEA HAJJ



*The pieces setting the pace this moment.
Think clean silhouettes, confident details and
an ease that keeps it modern*



Full Look, Bottega Veneta



Full Look, Alaïa



Full Look, Loewe





Dress, Balenciaga

PHOTOGRAPHER: DIMA BASSATNE; STYLIST: LEE HAN; HAIR: SEBASTIAN; SKANDAR;
MAKEUP: MARS; MODEL: VALERIA; LOCATION: RICKROSS STUDIO



Out On the weekend

By the coast, everything softens including how you dress; effortless, a little undone, and always ready for wherever the day drifts next.

Photographer PETER GEHRKE
Stylist ALEXANDRA BERNARD

Dress, Bag & Earrings, Gucci
Bracelets, Isabel Marant



Shirt & Skirt, Dior
La D My Dior Watch, Dior Horlogerie
Rose Des Vents Ring, Dior Joaillerie
Camille Mules, Repetto



Dress & Sunglasses, Miu Miu



Pullover & Skirt, Chloé
Glasses, Valentino
Maria Coral Disc Ring, Ginette Ny
La D My Dior Watch, Dior Horlogerie



Dress & Shoes, Balenciaga



Dress & Hat, Ralph Lauren
Learna Bag, Gaea
Bracelet & Necklace,
Samuel Francois
Clogs, Chloé



Dress, Valentino
Brune Ring, Monsieur
Chiara Ring, Pascale Monvoisin
Camille Mules, Repetto



PHOTOGRAPHER: PETER OEFURKE, STYLIST: & FASHION DIRECTOR: ALEXANDRA BERNARDI, HAIR: OLIVIA MANAGEMENT, MAKEUP: JULIA KRAMER, PHOTOGRAPHY ASSISTANT: JACOPO PELOSIO, STYLING ASSISTANT: MATHIEU LAUREN, PRODUCER: YANNICK SEVIA (ELLE INTERNATIONAL)

Hat, Maison Michel
Suit & Shoes, Chanel



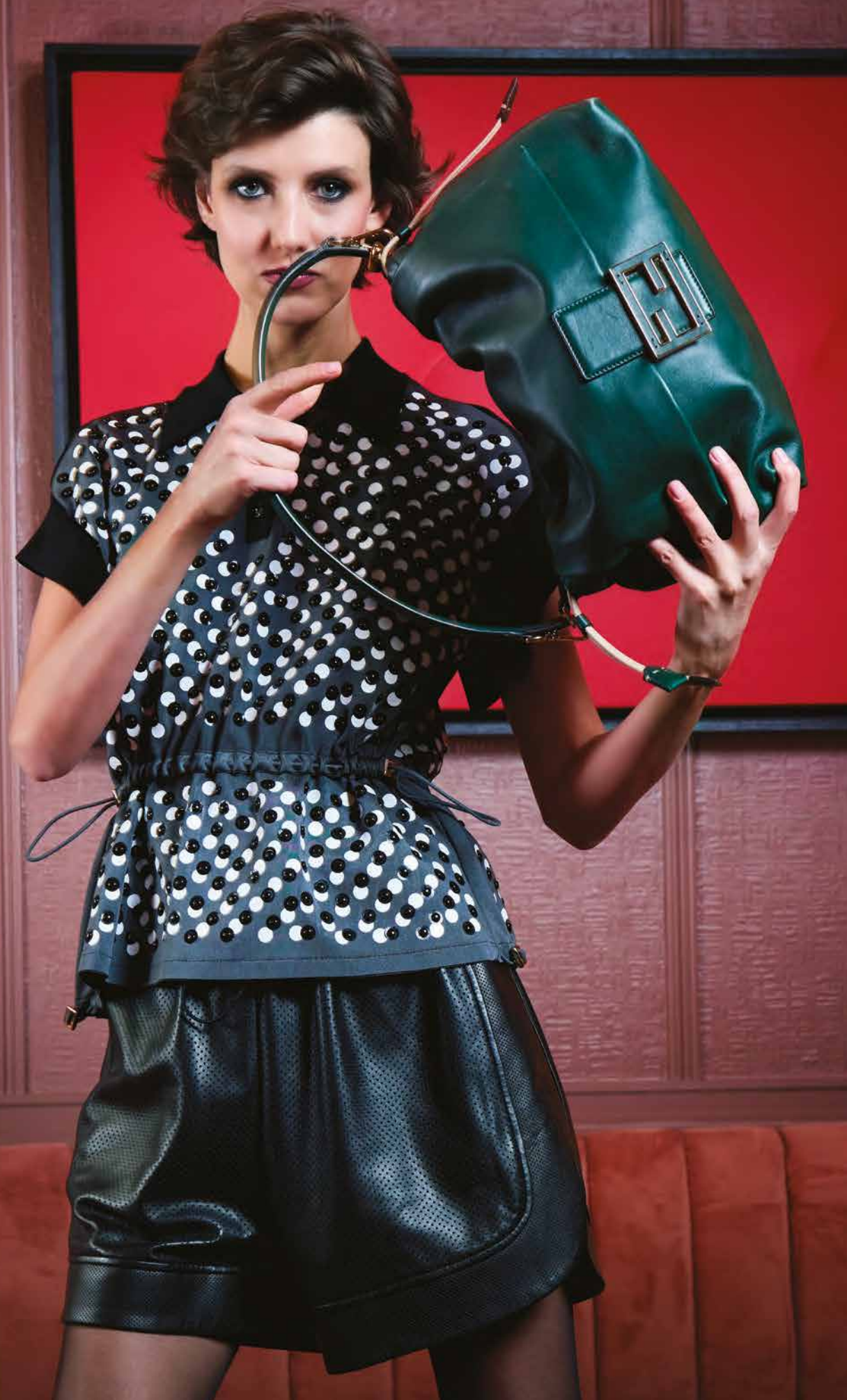
Double VISION

*The art of seeing and showing
two realities at once. The
boundary between presence
and *illusion* are blurred, creating
a dialogue between the real
self and the *projected persona*.*

Photographer ALEX FADEL *Creative Director & Stylist* FAROUK CHEKOUFI

Full Look, Tod's











Suit, Zuhair Murad; Necklace & Earrings, Lalique



Coat, Viktor&Rolf; Bag, Valetra; Gloves, Giada; Earrings, Lalique; Shoes, Valentino



Top, Gloves & Trousers; Giada;
Bracelet, Lalique; Shoes, Valentino



PHOTOGRAPHER: ALEY FAREL; CREATIVE DIRECTOR & STYLIST: FAROUK CHEKOUFI; VIDEOGRAPHER: MARLA KRYVORUK; MODEL: ANYOSHA K.; MAKEUP: TATIANA ZINCHUK; HAIR: CHRISTOPHE MECCA; BRACELET: GIADA; GLOVES: VALENTINO; SHOES: VALENTINO; LOCATION: MAISON DE LA BIÈRE, 75008 PARIS; SPECIAL THANKS TO CYNTHIA SUNNEN

ELLE

beauty

PUCKER UP...
A fresh take
on Guerlain's
KissKiss line leans
into color, care
and collectability
with honey-infused
formulas, refillable
cases and a new,
lighter approach
to lip that feels as
effortless as it looks

Face Value

WHAT'S SHAPING BEAUTY RIGHT NOW, FROM SHOOTS TO
NEW LAUNCHES AND STANDOUT EDITS



kiss & tell



KissKiss Red Bouquet 559,
 KissKiss Radiant Jasmine 134,
 KissKiss Blooming Lily 168, KissKiss
 Primrose Bliss 515,
 KissKiss Tender Lilac 815, KissKiss
 Sweet Cosmos 357, KissKiss Light
 Rose 335, KissKiss
 Peony Kiss 396,
 KissKiss Petal Red 510 - Guerlain

With Guerlain's iconic KissKiss collection, lipstick becomes more than a finishing touch, it's a statement. Think sculpted bullets and luminous shades designed to be worn (and admired) on repeat.



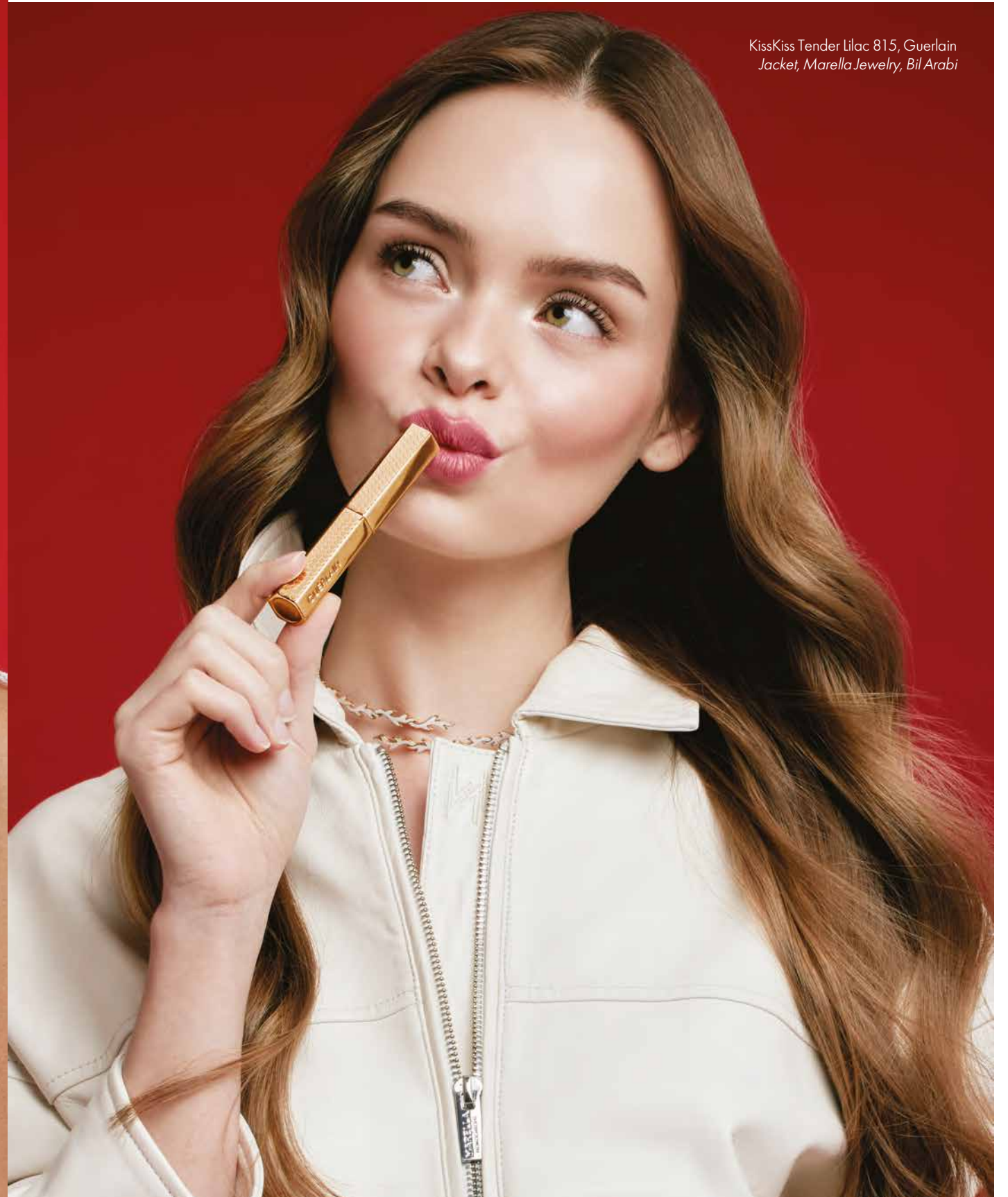
KissKiss Pure Hibiscus 520, KissKiss Petal Red 510, KissKiss Sweet Cosmos 356 - Guerlain
 Left to right: Dress, Ralph Lauren & Jewelry, Bil Arabi; Dress, Maison Margiela; Dress, COS

KissKiss Radiant Jasmine 134, Guerlain
Dress, Cos & Jewelry, Bil Arabi



Beauty

KissKiss Tender Lilac 815, Guerlain
Jacket, Marella Jewelry, Bil Arabi

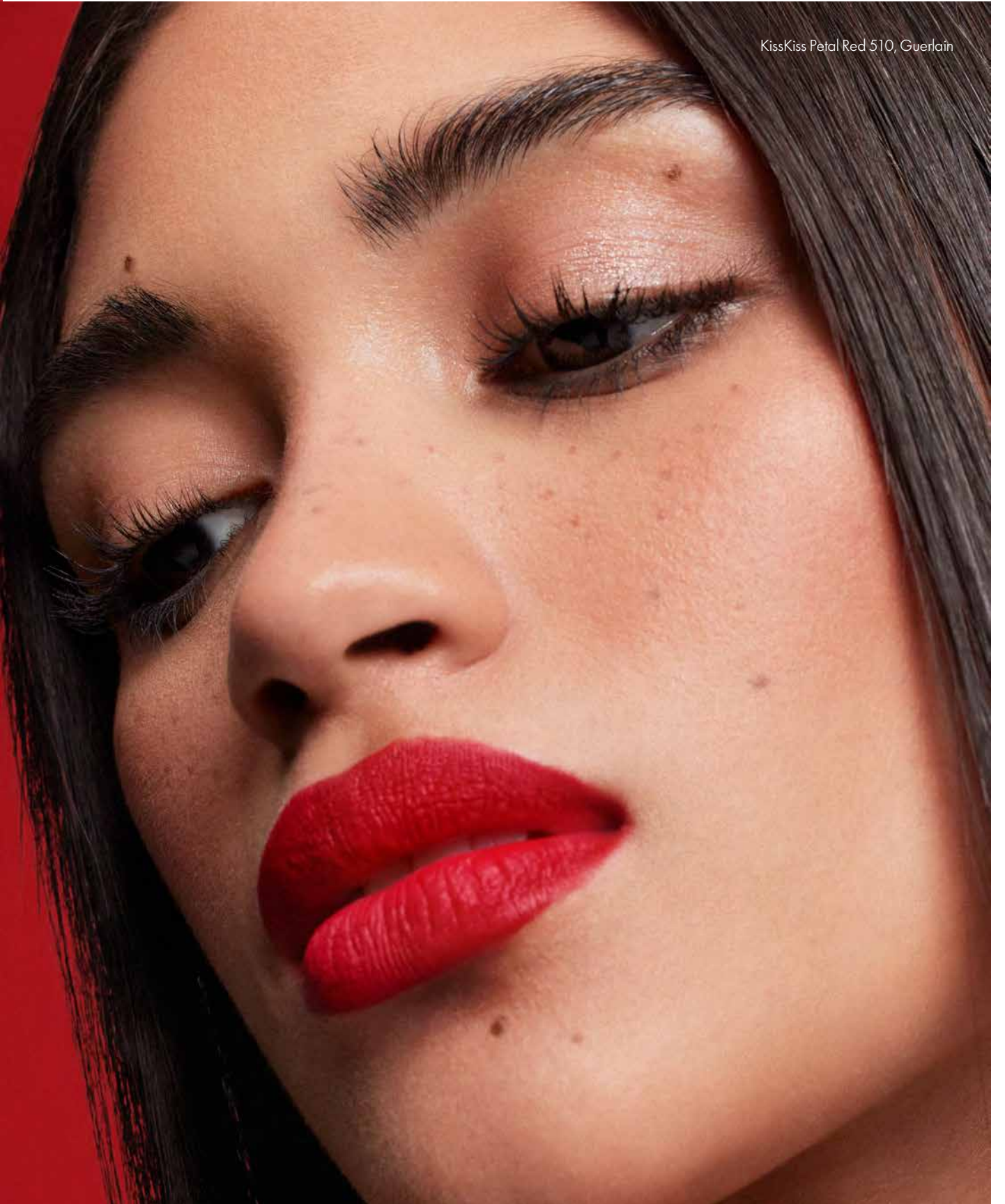


KissKiss Pure Hibiscus 520, Guerlain
Dress, Elisabeta Franchi & Jewelry, Bil Arabi



Beauty

KissKiss Petal Red 510, Guerlain





PHOTOGRAPHER: SAM RAWADI; STYLIST: DANIEL NEGRON; MAKEUP: HINDASH;
HAIR: WA' MAKEUP; HINDASH; LOCATION: BICKIBOSS STUDIO



Glass lips

If your gloss isn't doing more, why bother? Prada Beauty's new Reflection Lip Gloss fuses balm-level care with a slick, mirror-like shine, thanks to hydrating hyaluronic acid. The result: fuller, smoother lips with that polished, barely-trying finish Prada does best.



Beauty Memo

MEET THE PRODUCTS ON OUR EDITORS' BEAUTY RADAR THIS MONTH

Skin Upgrade

Dr. Barbara Sturm has never been about quick fixes and her Super Anti-Aging Collection sticks to that. Built on science-first formulas and biomimetic actives, it's all about strengthening skin from within, not just glossing over it. The real star? The Super Anti-Aging Serum, a hydrating, antioxidant-packed hit that keeps skin looking fresh, plump, and very well-rested.



Candle Classic

Some things don't need reinventing - just refining. Diptyque's iconic candle returns with a subtle design update, reworking its signature glass vessel with a sleeker silhouette and elevated details. Same scent, same glow, just a little more collectible than before.



LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT

Scent Stories

Not your average fragrance drop. Dries Van Noten's perfumes are designed like collectible pieces - bold, layered, and full of unexpected contrasts that unfold on the skin. Add vegan formulas, refillable bottles, and seriously chic packaging, and you've got a scent that feels as good as it looks.



Concealer Upgrade

The best concealers don't just cover, they perfect. Patrick Ta's Major Skin Soft Blur Brightening Concealer hits that sweet spot with a creamy, buildable formula that smooths, brightens, and blends like skin. Add hydrating ingredients and shades that actually get undertones right, finding your match just got a whole lot easier.



Caviar Code

Luxury skincare, but make it science. La Prairie's latest Skin Caviar update taps into fragmented Caviar PDRN, a cutting-edge ingredient designed to boost firmness and support skin renewal. Paired as a day-and-night duo, the cream and sleep mask work with your skin's natural rhythm to lift, smooth, and keep everything looking very in place.

Start your Reset

Stress shows up everywhere, your hair included. Härklinikken's limited-time UAE offer takes a science-led approach with its 6-month Hair Gain Extract program, now available at 20% off. The plan includes a personalized formula, full-size shampoo and conditioner, follow-up consultations, plus complimentary supplements to support hair from within. Available now until May 31 at the brand's Dubai clinic, book a consultation directly with Härklinikken to get started.



Photographer AMER MOHAMAD
Stylist DANIEL NEGRON.

*the
nude
effect*

*Soft, skin-like, and quietly
addictive, the new Narciso
Rodriguez For Her Pure Musc
Blanc reimagines musk at its
most luminous; clean, sensual,
and impossible to forget.*



Narciso Rodriguez For Her Pure
Musc Blanc Eau De Parfum
Look, Marella

Look, COS





Narciso Rodriguez For Her Pure Musc Blanc Eau De Parfum
Look, L'Agence



Narciso Rodriguez For Her Pure Musc Blanc Eau De Parfum



Narciso Rodriguez For Her Pure
Musc Blanc Eau De Parfum
Look, Marella



Narciso Rodriguez For Her Pure
Musc Blanc Eau De Parfum
Top, Carolina Herrera;
Trousers, L'Agence



PHOTOGRAPHER: AMER MOHAMMAD; STYLIST: DANIEL NEGRON; HAIR: IVA; MAKEUP: JEAN KAIROUZ; TALENT: MARMAR
AI; VIDEOGRAPHER: BASEM ALDABBOUR; SET DESIGNER: JEAN PAUL RAHA; LOCATION: BICKBOSS STUDIO

The Hydration Reset

Consider this your cue to rethink moisture: Chanel's latest Hydra Beauty lineup delivers lightweight formulas with serious skin benefits.

Hydration is having a moment and Chanel is treating it less like a step and more like a strategy. With its latest Hydra Beauty update, the House refocuses on what skin actually needs now: lightweight formulas, barrier support, and that lit-from-within finish that doesn't rely on makeup to do the heavy lifting.

At the core of the line is the white camellia, a signature ingredient chosen not just for its symbolism, but for its resilience. Here, it works to help reinforce the skin barrier while delivering long-lasting hydration, think skin that holds onto moisture instead of constantly chasing it. What sets the textures apart is Chanel's use of microfluidic technology. Suspended micro-bubbles (visible in the formulas) keep active ingredients intact until application, where they burst into the skin for an immediate hit



of freshness. It's subtle, but effective: hydration that feels instant, not heavy.

The range centers on two moisturizers designed to work with your skin, not against it. The Micro Crème leans richer, ideal for normal to dry skin or when you want added comfort. The Micro Gel Crème is lighter and more breathable, better suited to oilier skin types or warmer climates. The idea is flexibility: switching between textures depending on what your skin needs that day.

Then there's the Micro Sérum Lèvres, which brings the same approach to lip care. Powered by hyaluronic acid and camellia extracts, it delivers long-lasting hydration while smoothing and prepping lips for makeup. New scent variations, fresh green apple or a softer berry-rose, add a subtle sensorial layer without overpowering. The takeaway? Hydra Beauty isn't about overcomplicating your routine. It's about getting hydration right, Smart textures, considered formulas, and skin that looks better with less.



SPRITZ CRAVINGS

LIGHT, PLAYFUL, AND SERIOUSLY ADDICTIVE, THESE NEW-GEN BODY SPRAYS ARE ALL ABOUT EASY LAYERING AND ON-THE-GO TOP-UPS. SO GOOD, YOUR PERFUME MIGHT TAKE A BACKSEAT

1. THE RITUAL OF YOZAKURA HAIR & BODY MIST, RITUALS
2. BERGAMOT & HINOKI BODY MIST, SALT & STONE
3. SHAY BREEZE ALL OVER SPRAY, ANFASIC
4. MOISTURIZING BODY & HAIR FRAGRANCE MIST, RICH PISTACHIO, TOUCHLAND
5. AMBER HAZE HAIR AND BODY FRAGRANCE MIST, PHLUR
6. CHEIROSA 76 PERFUME MIST, SOL DE JANEIRO
7. HAIR & SKIN FRAGRANT MIST SUNSET BLISS, NUXE
8. BODY SPRITZ, GLOSSIER
9. ALLOVER BODY MIST, HEY BOUQUET, FENTY SKIN



SALT AIR

From Paris to the coast, Chanel draws on Biarritz to frame its Les Beiges Summer Essentials

The Paris-Biarritz contrast comes through in how makeup is handled. Light, air and movement shape the finish so that skin stays visible, with coverage used only to even tone. Issued as a limited edition, the collection focuses on textures that are lightweight, liquids that absorb quickly, powders that soften without flattening, and finishes that maintain a natural balance throughout the day.

The color palette follows the same logic. Sandy beiges, muted pinks and warm browns echo the coastline, with tones that belong to the skin rather than sit on top of it. Eye colors build depth, while lips and nails are in a similar range of understated shades.

The best part? Application is straightforward. Products can be used quickly, layered without precision, and worn across long hours outdoors. Just what we need for long balmy days! Cooling elements and sheer formulas keep the routine practical in warmer conditions.

"We Love the serum concealer with hyaluronic acid and a cooling ceramic applicator that refreshes the skin while providing light and even coverage"



With its melting texture, Rouge Coco Flash brings instant shine. Sweet: a soft caramel. Fruity: a berry. Limited edition. Zesty: a tomato red. Limited edition



Les Beiges Healthy Glow Natural Eyeshadow Palette features satiny pink beige, soft pink, chocolate brown, shadow beige and camel beige.



Summer Glean: A pearlescent pink highlighter that is luminous with an iridescent finish



"Liquid blushes and soft highlighters create a diffused finish that reflects natural light without looking staged."

ELLE

gourmet



Zainab Talati

STEPS INTO HER MOST PERSONAL CHAPTER YET, WHERE FOOD, CULTURE AND MODERN AUTHORITY MEET IN MINA ZAYED



Total Look: Ounass

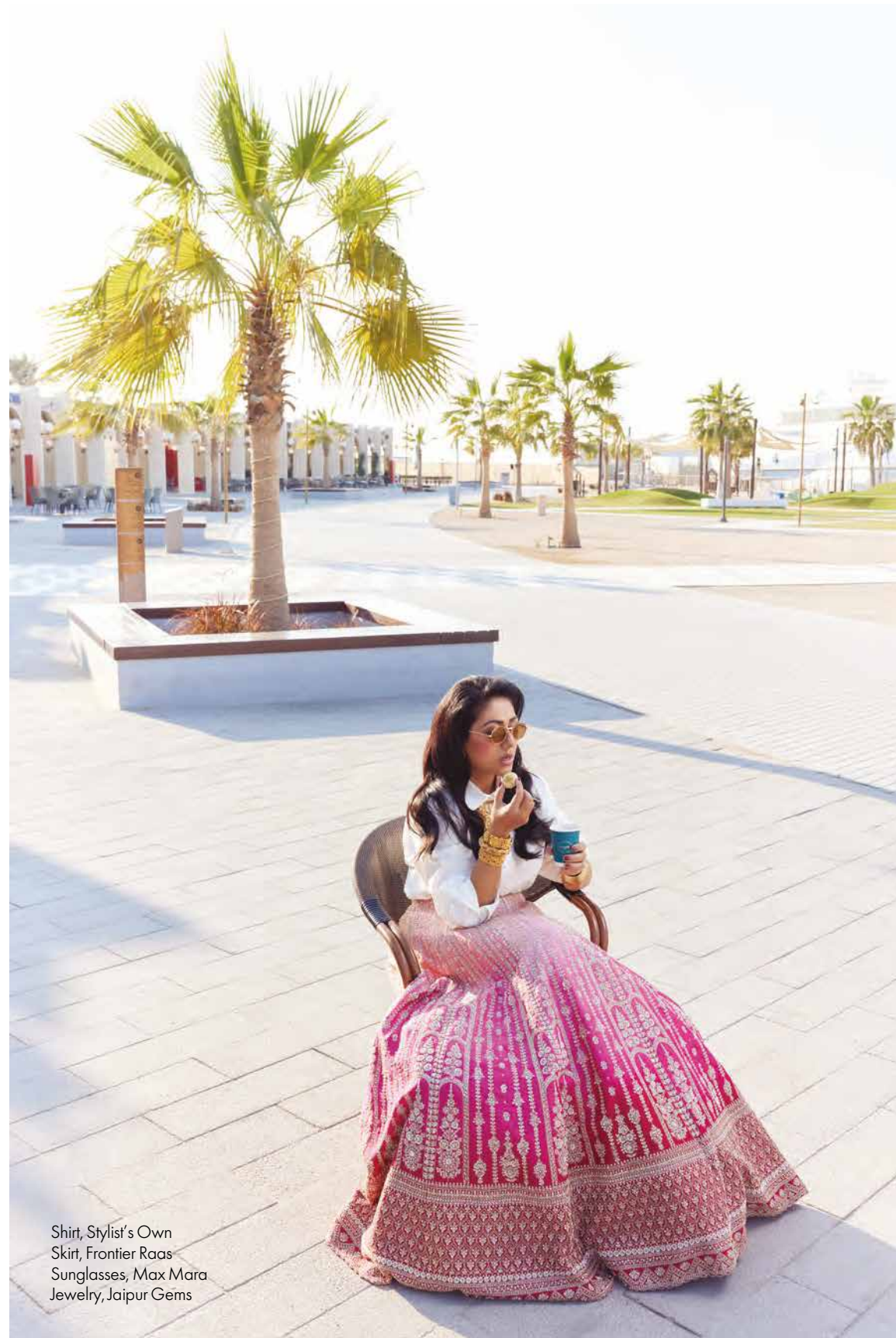
At the head of the TABLE

Zainab Talati has spent years shaping narratives from behind the scenes. With her first standalone restaurant opening Summer 2026, she brings the food she grew up eating into a permanent space of her own. Set in Mina Zayed, Jaan draws from Indian street culture, family rituals, and everyday cooking. Styled in luxe looks for this shoot, she speaks about the role food has played in shaping both her personal and professional life.

Photographer SAM RAWADI
Stylist MARGUERITA CHRISTOFORIDIS



Jacket, Shaira Fashions
Sari, Good Earth
Top, Stylist's Own
Earrings, Jaipur Gems
Rings & Bracelets,
Suzanne Kalan



Shirt, Stylist's Own
Skirt, Frontier Raas
Sunglasses, Max Mara
Jewelry, Jaipur Gems



Top & Trousers, Manish Malhotra
Turtleneck Top, Stylist's Own
Rings & Bracelets, Suzanne Kalan
Earrings, Jaipur Gems



Left page:
Jewelry, Jaipur Gems
Jacket & Top, 12 Storeez
Skirt, Manish Malhotra
Left Hand Ring, Suzanne Kalan

This page:
Shirt, Ralph Lauren
Jewelry, Jaipur Gems
Skirt, Frontier Raas



In Conversation with... ZAINAB TALATI

What does the name Jaan mean to you personally? Jaan quite literally translates to life or soul in Hindi and Urdu, with Persian roots. But beyond the literal meaning, it's a word of deep affection, something you call someone you love. For me, Jaan represents the emotional core of everything I do. It's about food cooked with feeling, memory, and intention. It reflects how I grew up, where food wasn't just nourishment, it was love, care, and connection. Jaan is personal, emotional, and deeply human, which is exactly how I want people to experience the brand.

How is Jaan an evolution of Mama's Kitchen rather than a new beginning? Mama's Kitchen was an ode to my mother and her food; Jaan is an evolution of that same soul. It's an ode not just to my mother, but to both my parents, my children, and my culture as a whole. The essence hasn't changed, it's still the food I grew up eating, but Jaan allows me to express it in a more immersive and elevated way. It gives me the space to inform, educate, and invite people into my culture, my heritage, and my idea of home. Importantly, Jaan is also a concept that can travel. While Mama's Kitchen was deeply personal and intimate, Jaan has been thoughtfully designed to live and grow across cities and cultures without losing its soul. That evolution mirrors our journey. We launched from home during Covid, grew into a cloud kitchen and delivery concept, hosted supper clubs and live pop-ups, secured a space in the ADNOC HQ food hall serving thousands of employees and visitors each day, and are now launching our first standalone concept. Jaan is the natural next chapter, rooted in the same heart, but built to grow.

Why was Mina Zayed the right home for your first standalone restaurant? It was incredibly important for our first standalone restaurant to sit somewhere that truly reflected our values. Mina Zayed felt like an immediate fit. It's iconic, yes, but more than that, it represents the soul of Abu Dhabi, layered, authentic, and community-driven. Being surrounded by brands such as Marmalletta, Asyak Grill, and Nacem Sweets creates a real sense of belonging and synergy. There's an energy there that feels honest and grounded, and that sense of community is

central to Jaan. We didn't want to be in a place that felt transactional we wanted to be part of a neighborhood, a rhythm, a story.

What misconception about Indian food were you most determined to challenge? The biggest misconception is that Indian food is heavy, indulgent, or only meant for special occasions. I grew up eating Indian food every single day, and I still do. My children take home-cooked Indian food to school most days. For us, it's fresh food, cooked from scratch, balanced, nourishing, and deeply comforting. At Jaan, I was determined to show the freshness, lightness, and balance of Indian cuisine. That's why I'm so passionate about ingredient quality and technique. Our butter chicken, for example, has depth of flavor but no artificial sweeteners, and our biryani uses a method that removes excess starch from the rice, giving it an overall lightness that's often missing. Indian food can be vibrant, fresh, and contemporary without losing its soul.

Which dish on the menu is closest to your childhood? Perhaps surprising to some, the most nostalgic dish for me is the humble samosa. It was a constant during Ramadan and whenever we hosted guests. I vividly remember sitting with my aunts and cousins, wrapping each triangular parcel while listening to stories and laughter, it was a true family ritual. My mother's biryani is equally emotional. It was reserved for special occasions, big dinners, Eids, and the entire house would be filled with the aroma of saffron, spices, and slow-cooked meat. Seeing that huge pot of beautifully colored rice was always a moment of pure excitement. To this day, my children are excited to eat Biryani.

How important was it for you to include live elements like the chaat counter? The chaat counter is a real feature for Jaan. From the very beginning, I wanted guests to be welcomed by sound, movement, and energy, just like Indian street food. Even though the restaurant is intentionally intimate, I refused to compromise on this element. The counter brings theatre and spontaneity into the space, and the street-facing window allows passers-by to grab a quick bite, creating a real connection with the neighborhood. It's alive, it's sensory, and it instantly sets the tone for what Jaan is about.

Did your background in luxury brand building change how you approached food? Absolutely. At its core, successful brand building is about storytelling, authenticity, and emotional connection, and food is one of the most powerful storytelling tools there is. My background in luxury marketing and brand strategy has shaped how I think about every touchpoint at Jaan, from the menu language to the interiors to how the brand shows up culturally. But none of that would matter without authenticity. Jaan works because it's real, it's my story, my food, my culture, simply expressed with intention and clarity.

How did it feel putting something so personal into the public eye? It was both nerve-wracking and incredibly exciting. I've been hosting people in my home and cooking for pop-ups for years, but opening a restaurant feels like opening your heart in a much bigger way. That said, feeding people has always brought me immense joy. It's a value my late father instilled deeply in our family, the idea that gathering people around food is one of the purest forms of connection. Seeing others experience our food and feel that warmth is incredibly fulfilling.

What do you want guests to feel when they dine at Jaan? I want guests to feel transported, to my childhood, to moments of joy, to the streets of Mumbai. Between the food, the curated music, the design, and the live elements, Jaan is meant to be an experience as much as a meal. More than anything, I want people to feel welcomed, nourished, and emotionally connected, not just fed.

For more updates follow @myjaan.ae

PHOTOGRAPHER: SAMI ALMADANI; STYLIST: MARQUEITA CHRISTOPHERS; HAIR: SEBASTIAN ISKANDAR; MAKEUP: SARAY YOUNIS; TALENT: ZAINAB TALATI; LOCATION: MINA ZAYED POINT - ABU DHABI

RAPID FIRE

Your ideal day off starts with... An early start - prayer, a workout, and chai before the world has a chance to get loud.
Coffee, chai, or neither? Both, always. Ginger masala chai to ease into the day, then a strong black coffee by 9am to sharpen everything.

Early mornings or late nights in the kitchen? Early mornings, without question. That quiet window between 6am and 2pm is when everything flows; ideas, inspiration and clarity. That's where the real creating happens. My team own the late nights.

A place you go to truly switch off? The cinema, long walks, or the kitchen when it's just me. Cooking for others is one of the most grounding and relaxing things I know.

One must-order dish at Jaan? Impossible to choose just one... but if I had to choose: Butter Chicken Fries, the Monsoon Salad Bowl, Chicken Crunch Samosas, and the Boombastic Biryani with a Mango Saffron Lassi.

Favourite Indian street snack? Pani puri, I could eat them endlessly and never get tired of it. The single pop filled with an array of flavours is really a party for the senses and they are so light!

Go-to spice? Coriander seeds and crushed cumin, roasted, freshly ground, and layered into almost everything we do.

Best meal you've had while traveling? Steamed momos in a fragrant coriander broth at Bombay Canteen, late-night grills at Bade Miya in Mumbai eaten off a newspaper on a car bonnet, and the lamb shank biryani at Dishoom Manchester.

Left page: Top, Brunello Cucinelli Shirt, Bouguessa Skirt, Frontier Raas Rings & Earrings, Suzanne Kalan

Thist page: Shirt, Stylist's Own Skirt, Frontier Raas Sunglasses, Max Mara Jewelry, Jaipur Gems



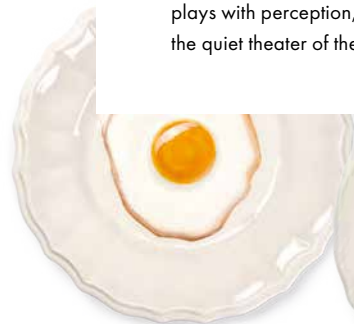
TABLE TALK

A PLAYFUL EDIT OF OBJECTS THAT SHIFT THE MOOD OF THE TABLE, WHERE CRAFTSMANSHIP MEETS A LIGHTER, MORE CURIOUS SENSE OF DISPLAY



A Trick of Taste

Dior Maison revisits trompe-l'œil through a series of ceramic pieces that blur the line between tableware and illusion. Plates mimic croissants, eggs and seasonal produce with striking precision, while sculpted fruits and pastries expand the idea into something closer to collectible objects. Drawn from the House's archives and reworked under Jonathan Anderson, the collection plays with perception, nostalgia and the quiet theater of the table.



Clockwise:
LES OTTOMANS;
MARIO LUCA GIUSTI;
PEUGEOT;
LE CREUSET

Glass Acts

Cut crystal shifts into color, with vases in saturated tones that bring a sharper, more playful edge to classic forms.



Seasoned Brights

Salt and pepper sets step into bolder territory, with reds, yellows, and orange hues turning everyday pieces into small statements.

ELLE

lifestyle

CHILL & RELAX
The days begin and
linger a little longer.



What We're Loving

FROM BOOKS AND FILMS TO PLACES WORTH ESCAPING TO, THIS MONTH'S MIX FEELS EASY, CURRENT, AND EXACTLY WHERE WE WANT TO BE



THE LOWDOWN

Set along a pristine stretch of coastline, Four Seasons Resort Dubai at Jumeirah Beach strikes that rare balance between resort escape and urban sophistication. The property unfolds like a private sanctuary - lush gardens, low-rise architecture, and uninterrupted views of the Arabian Gulf give it a sense of calm that feels worlds away from the city, yet you're minutes from it all. Interiors lean into understated elegance: soft, neutral palettes, marble finishes, and light-filled spaces that feel effortlessly refined rather than overworked. Rooms and suites follow suit: spacious, serene, and designed with a kind of quiet luxury that doesn't need to announce itself. The Pearl Spa is where the pace slows entirely. Inspired by the region's heritage, it blends traditional hammam rituals with advanced treatments, offering everything from deeply restorative massages to glow-inducing facials. Add to that indoor and outdoor pools, a state-of-the-art fitness centre, and direct beach access, and you've got a stay that's as much about switching off as it is about indulging well.

GOOD EATS

Dining here is less about ticking boxes and more about mood. From refined Italian at Sea Fu to elevated Levantine flavours at Shai Salon, each outlet feels distinct yet cohesive. Mercury Lounge, perched on the rooftop, remains a go-to for sunset views and a well-dressed crowd, while Hendricks Bar delivers old-school charm with a perfectly executed cocktail. It's the kind of lineup that makes staying in feel like the better plan.

NAMMOS, THE SCENE-STEALER

Then there's Nammos Dubai the Mykonos export that's become a destination in its own right. Think beachfront tables, impossibly fresh seafood, and an atmosphere that builds from leisurely lunch to full-blown social affair by sunset. It's glamorous without trying too hard, buzzy without being chaotic and exactly where you go when you want your dinner to turn into something a little more memorable.



Four Seasons Resort Dubai at Jumeirah Beach

Beachfront serenity meets polished city glamour at one of Dubai's most quietly iconic stays

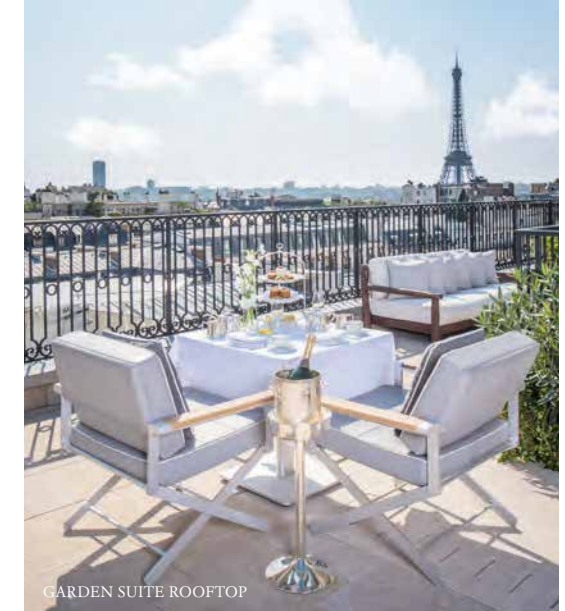
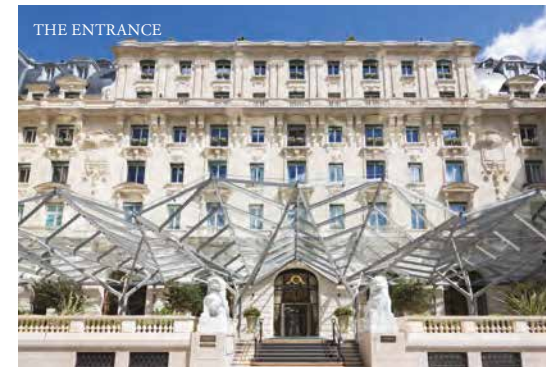


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The Peninsula Paris

This is Paris, up close. Set just off Avenue Kléber, the historic address is shaped for how the city is lived today



THE LOWDOWN

The Peninsula Paris occupies the former Hotel Majestic, a landmark building with a long history tied to the city's political and cultural life. Reopened in 2014 after a four-year restoration, the structure retains its Haussmann bones of grand volumes, detailed plasterwork and long sightlines, paired with a layout that feels practical and inviting. The setting places you within minutes of the Arc de Triomphe, with the energy of the Champs-Élysées close by.

ROOMS & SUITES

Rooms are among the largest in Paris, which shifts the pace of a stay from the outset. Interiors are built around neutral tones and precise detailing and the layouts are generous, with clear separation between living and sleeping areas in many categories. A number of suites extend outdoors with private terraces or rooftop gardens overlooking the city. We especially loved the In-room technology that allows for many modern amenities in such a grand setting.

FOOD & MOOD

L'Oiseau Blanc, the hotel's two-Michelin-starred restaurant, is led by Executive Chef David Bizet and centers on contemporary French cuisine. Le Lobby operates throughout the day with an international menu, including classic French dishes and a must-try afternoon tea service. LiLi approaches Cantonese cuisine with a refined, ingredient-driven menu of dim sum, seafood, and slow-cooked specialities served in a more immersive, design-led setting.

WELLNESS & BEYOND

The Peninsula Spa spans 1,800 square meters with sauna, steam room, fitness center, and a 25-meter indoor pool designed for length swimming rather than leisure dips. Treatment rooms offer a mix of Asian and European protocols, including full-body massages, facials using advanced skincare technology, and hydrotherapy-focused rituals. Beyond the spa, the hotel has a dedicated concierge team to arrange private shopping appointments, museum access, and custom itineraries across the city to make the absolute best of out time.





Play

**"KI TCHOUFNI M3A GHIREK"
BY CHIRINE LAJMI**

If you're after a track that radiates confidence and instantly sets the tone for your morning drive, this one delivers. Translating to "when you see me with someone else," it's all about moving on - but don't expect heartbreak. It's bold, catchy, and miles away from anything remotely sad.



WATCH SEE PLAY

WITH CALENDARS A BUZZING, THESE ARE THE NOTEWORTHY HAPPENINGS CAUSING A BUZZ AT THE MOMENT



See

**CATS AT ETIHAD ARENA,
ABU DHABI (MAY 14-24)**

You might know Cats from that Taylor Swift movie moment, or from when Cam in Modern Family fully committed to feline life (and a tree protest). Either way, Cats remains one of the most iconic musicals of all time and it's taking over Etihad Arena this May. Andrew Lloyd Webber's classic blends fantasy, world-class choreography, and a score that's impossible to forget. We're all for dressing up for the occasion, but for this one? Cat costumes are strictly optional.

COMPILED BY SWATI JAIN

Watch

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2

Get your Prada ready - this isn't just a movie night, it's a fashion moment. Miranda Priestly is back (and yes, we're already nervous). The long-awaited sequel reunites Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, and Emily Blunt inside the cutthroat world of Runway magazine. This time, the stakes shift from glossy pages to the digital age served with the same razor-sharp wit, power plays, and wardrobe that made it iconic the first time around.



Listen

**KEFAYA BA2A
WITH ALAA AL-SHEIKH**

Sometimes you just need to hear the truth, completely unfiltered. Kefaya Ba2a (Enough Already) is a brutally honest, sarcastic, and hilarious deep dive into the quirks and flaws of modern society. Alaa Al-Sheikh hosts what feels like a "no-BS" chat with friends, where no topic is too sensitive and no "filter" is applied. It's raw, it's funny, and it's a brilliant cultural mirror that will have you laughing and nodding in agreement during your daily commute.

Follow

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR THAT NEWNESS ON THE 'GRAM...



YASMINE ARIDA
@YasmineArida

A fashion editor with a sharp eye and zero time for anything that feels try-hard. There's a precision to how she dresses, a quiet authority that turns the simplest look into something entirely her own.



ALIA KAMAL
@Alia.abk

Alia approaches style with a kind of quiet confidence - nothing loud, nothing forced, just pieces that land exactly right. It's in the balance: relaxed but refined, minimal but never boring.



SHAHINAZ ALBOUCHI
@Shahinazalbouchi

Shahinaz embodies a kind of quiet confidence that Arab women do so well - self-assured, intentional, and never in need of approval. Her style proves she knows who she is, and dresses accordingly.

ELLE

RADIANCE BOOST
PRO FACEWEAR



CLINICAL-GRADE LED THERAPY FOR LONG-TERM RESULTS



CALMS AND BALANCES THE SKIN



QUICK 10-MINUTE SESSIONS



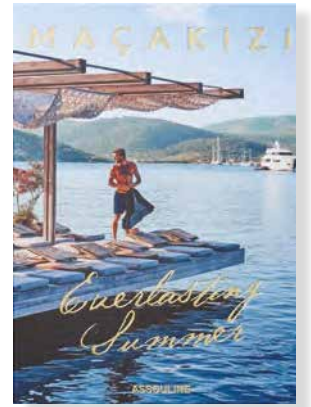
APP INTEGRATED FOR CUSTOMIZED CARE

Scan to discover
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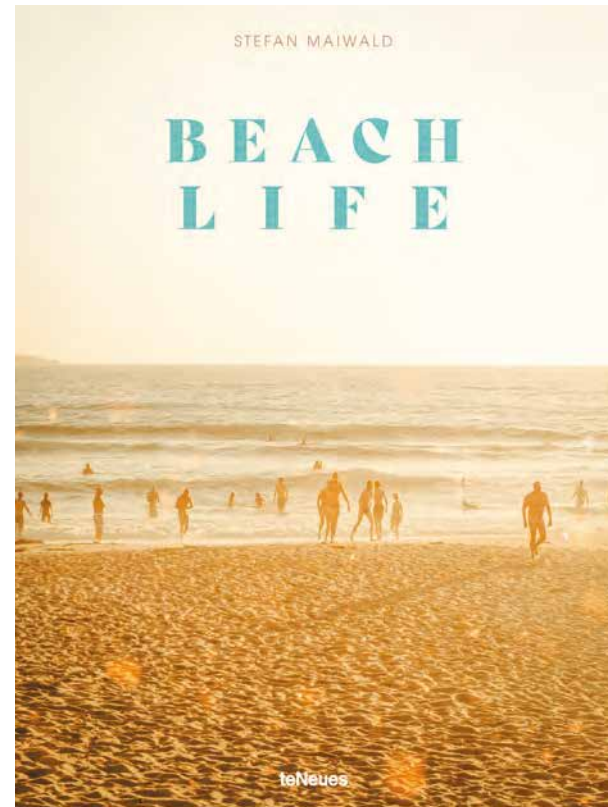
READ

JANUARY BRINGS MOSTLY HALF-KEPT RESOLUTIONS, SPRING CALLS FOR FLORALS (GROUNDBREAKING), BUT MAY IS WHEN SUMMER PLANNING AND COASTAL DREAMING TAKE OVER...



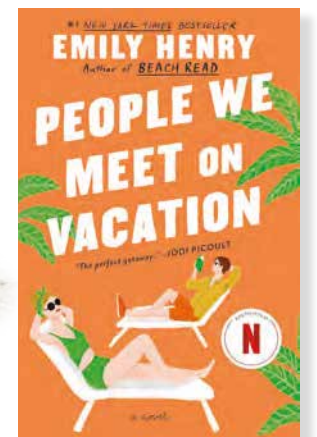
MAÇAKIZI: EVERLASTING SUMMER
by Assouline

A summer wedding in Bodrum has become something of a pilgrimage of late and there are many reasons why. Our favorite? Maçakizi. This book is a love letter to the Turkish Riviera, celebrating the bohemian-luxe lifestyle that has made the hotel a sanctuary for the global creative set since the 1970s. It captures the essence of "Everlasting Summer": long lunches under bougainvillea, the shimmer of the Aegean Sea, and that effortless Mediterranean chic that never goes out of style.



BEACH LIFE
by Stefan Maiwald

As summer rolls around, there's a longing within our souls; the urge to smell the salt air, to feel your bare feet graze the sand, and hear the magic of crashing waves. For all your summer inspiration and storytelling, Beach Life fulfills that craving with beautiful imagery and special stories, from how Coco Chanel practically invented the summer tan to the way Mediterranean light inspired legends like Picasso.

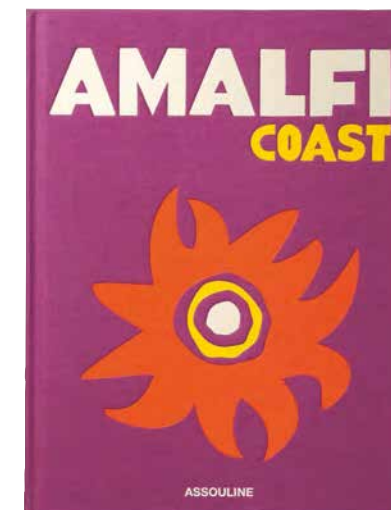


PEOPLE WE MEET ON VACATION
by Emily Henry

The perfect beach day calls for the perfect beach read. Now a movie, this one by Emily Henry delivers a slow-burn, friends-to-lovers romance. It follows best friends Poppy and Alex - complete opposites - who take annual summer trips, until one in Italy turns into a bit of a disaster. The story will have you chuckling, eye-rolling, and even happy-sad crying at times. Like I said, the perfect beach read.

AMALFI COAST
by Carlos Souza and Charlene Shorto

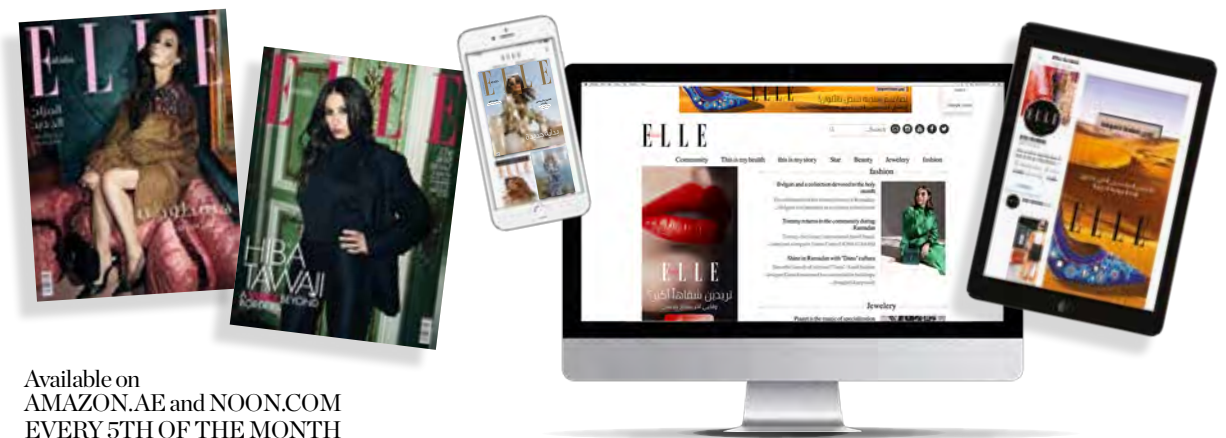
If you want to understand the gold standard of European coastal glamour, look no further. The Amalfi Coast has long been the pinnacle of the Italian dream - tucked among lemon blossoms and bougainvillea, a string of thirteen towns lines its edge. Quaint pebble beaches, scenic hikes, perfect weather, and storied establishments - pour yourself a limoncello, because this destination is truly like no other.





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YOUR
DOOR
STEPS

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Aries

20 MARCH - 19 APRIL

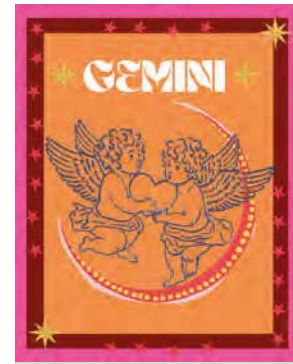
Your family or closest friends are disapproving of your latest project. You could ignore them and carry on alone, of course, but you can see that they are trying to stop you from going too far, too fast. When the wave of planetary energy which has carried you forwards starts to subside after the 6th, you have the perfect excuse to slow things down a little; no need to abandon your plans, just revise the timetable.



Taurus

20 APRIL - 20 MAY

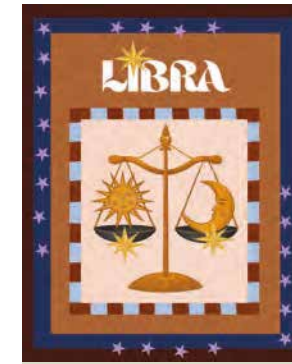
After a hectic end to April, you move into a calmer phase, giving you time to look at the bigger picture and work out what's really going on. The choices you make now will be important, so don't let yourself be distracted by the reappearance of an ex, eager to revisit your previous affair. It could be fun, for a short while - but it will pull you back into the past when you should be reaching for the future. Take care.



Gemini

21 MAY - 20 JUNE

Are you still trying to turn around a situation which is not going the way you hoped? Taking risks in the hope of getting a brilliant last-minute result? Ask yourself why you are doing this. If you win, then fine - but if you lose, you could lose very heavily. It might be better simply to let it all go. Uranus' entry into your own sign this month will bring new opportunities and much brighter prospects, so go with that instead.



Libra

23 SEPTEMBER - 22 OCTOBER

If you've made a few wrong moves recently, now is a good time to put things right. If you've made a hasty decision, you can go back and say that after giving it some thought, you've decided not to proceed with it. If you've argued with anyone, you can say you're sorry, and all will be well. And if you said no to a new love affair because you thought it could never work, you can change that too and say yes.



Scorpio

23 OCTOBER - 21 NOVEMBER

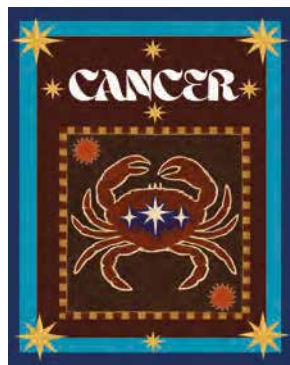
An explosive argument flaring up without warning must surely signal the end of the romance, you feel - but in fact, the opposite is true. Somehow, this fierce exchange of what you do and don't like about each other allows the relationship to breathe, with the result that the affair becomes closer and sexier than ever. You might even find yourselves planning your long-term future; are you sure you're ready for that?



Sagittarius

22 NOVEMBER - 20 DECEMBER

Although it's good to see that you are making plans for long term and doing all you can to reach your goals, there are good times to be had in the short term too. The present moment must always be taken as it is; you can't save it for some future date. So, if there's something you want to do, or a trip you want to take, take advantage of the playful mood of the planets over the next few weeks, and do it now.



Cancer

21 JUNE - 21 JULY

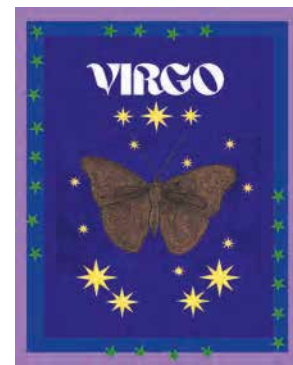
You're nervous about meeting up with someone special from your past, but you needn't worry. Enough time has gone by since the end of the affair for you both to have moved on, and neither of you feel the need to re-open old arguments. When you talk about old times, the feeling is warm and nostalgic, without any bitterness; you may have lost a lover, but you've gained a friend, and you're happy with that.



Leo

22 JULY - 22 AUGUST

The first disagreement in a new relationship is always difficult, because you haven't learned each other's style of argument. You may not have met anyone quite like this before, who can push back just as hard as you, and in these early days you may be tempted to think that any sort of agreement between you is impossible. That's not true. Give yourselves time, don't take things too seriously, and all will be well.



Virgo

23 AUGUST - 22 SEPTEMBER

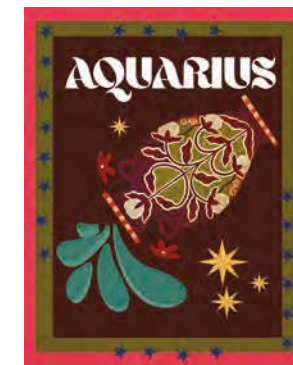
An unexpected career opportunity may seem a long way out of your comfort zone - but is that any reason to say no? Of course not. If you think you don't know enough about what the job involves, then ask for more information, talk to people who have been there before, or read the textbook. In fact, your talents are exactly right for it. You don't know it yet, but this is the chance you've been waiting for.



Capricorn

21 DECEMBER - 19 JANUARY

For a relationship to grow, you have to say the right thing at the right time, to let the other person know how you feel about them. Maybe you couldn't judge the right moment, or you were shy, or you didn't want to spoil what you already had; but for whatever reason, you've left it very late. It's not a complete disaster, and yes, you can rescue it, but you'll have to be quick. Don't overthink it - just go from the heart.



Aquarius

20 JANUARY - 18 FEBRUARY

A new chapter of your life starts now, as your ruler Uranus changes sign. If, in recent times, you felt that you were held back for any reason, unable to use your talents or follow your interests, then all that will start to change, and over the coming months you will recover that sense of freedom that you had lost. From now on, you will set your own agenda: if you want to do something, you will, and nobody will stop you.



Pisces

19 FEBRUARY - 19 MARCH

You are wonderfully flexible and adaptable, but even you can't live in the past and the present at the same time. To stay rooted in the past, with the people and places you know so well, yet also to reach for the future, is too much of a stretch. This month will show that your present situation can't continue. To be where you want to be, you need to move on - and if that means leaving the past behind, so be it.

Last Light
 SUNSET TONES TAKE OVER, FROM WASHED APRICOT TO DEEP AMBER, WITH FLUID SILHOUETTES THAT MOVE EASILY FROM LATE AFTERNOON INTO EVENING

"The evening comes in summer like a dream"
 JOHN CLARE

1. ESCUDO 2. DRIES VAN NOTEN
 3. CHLOÉ 4. LIDO 5. JULIETTA
 6. ZIMMERMANN 7. LOEWE EYEWEAR + PAULA'S IBIZA 8. RABANNE

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