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THE SUNDAY TIMES

# TYLE

14 JULY 2024



SUMMER SPECIAL

## *Make a splash!*

THE CULT COZZIE / MELTPROOF MAKE-UP / STATUS TOWELS

PLUS WHAT DUA LIPA AND MARC JACOBS  
READ ON THE BEACH



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INTRODUCING THE ROYAL OAK SELFWINDING FLYING TOURBILLON  
OPENWORKED IN AN ELUSIVE NEW ALLOY NAMED SAND GOLD.

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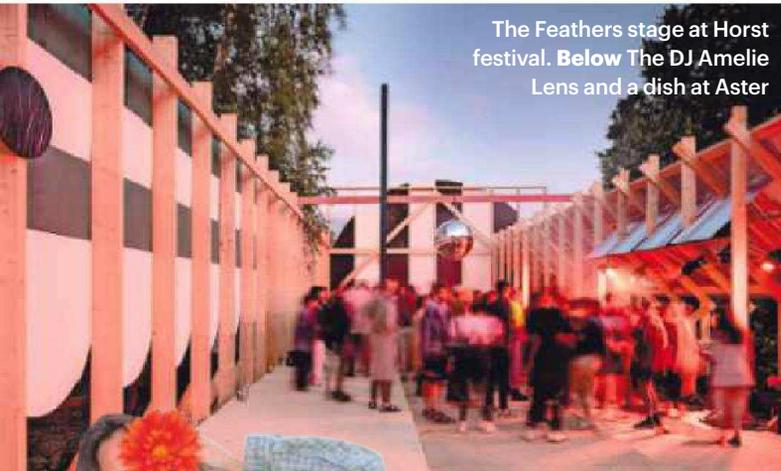




# The Barometer

Edited by Priya Elan

Fashion! Beauty! People! Things! Welcome to your weekly guide to the stuff everyone will be talking about. Do keep up



The Feathers stage at Horst festival. Below The DJ Amelie Lens and a dish at Aster

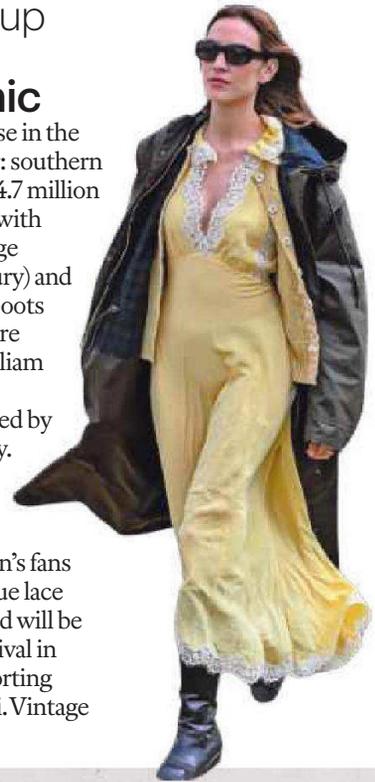


## The new Berlin is... Brussels

This summer's unexpected capital of cool? Brussels! Forget the technocrats; here it's all about techno. The hip London-based DJ Saoirse recently shared her love for the Belgian city's club scene ("Every night is just fire"), while industry insiders rave about the latest edition of the underground arts and music festival Horst, held on the outskirts of Brussels at a former military site (installations for Horst Expo 2024 run until September 8). Hot tip? Locals head to Kiosk Radio in Parc Royal for beers and live DJ mixes. Or travel south for Dour Festival (Belgium's answer to Glastonbury; from Wednesday), where the model turned DJ Amelie Lens is back on home turf amid a five-day line-up that includes Ice Spice and Honey Dijon. Besides music, check out *Fashion Moves*, at Mad Brussels until August 31, an exhibition exploring the relationship between fashion and dance featuring pieces by the Belgian designer Raf Simons. Finally, snag a reservation at the hottest table in town, Aster, for fire-licked tasting menus by Tubo Logier, who has popped up everywhere from 180 Strand in London to Jaja in Berlin. *Santé!*

## All hail southern gothic

Forget Taylor Swift's cowboycore — those in the know prefer a moodier vibe this summer: southern gothic. It's huge on TikTok — there are 14.7 million "southern gothic outfit ideas" videos — with Swiftie sparkles being swapped for vintage negligees (see Alexa Chung at Glastonbury) and floor-sweeping prairie dresses (cowboy boots are acceptable to both crowds). A subgenre that has its roots in literature such as William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying* and Flannery O'Connor's *Wise Blood*, today it's being led by musicians with a taste for the melancholy. Take Weyes Blood, whose name derives from O'Connor's seminal novel, or Ethel Cain, who has more than two million monthly listeners on Spotify. Cain's fans (aka the "daughters of Cain") sport antique lace camisoles and camouflage dungarees, and will be lining up to see her at All Points East festival in Hackney next month, where she's supporting fellow southern gothic songstress Mitski. Vintage Laura Ashley never looked so good.



Ethel Cain. Left Weyes Blood. Above Alexa Chung at last month's Glastonbury



## STYLE

ON THE COVER LUNA BIJL AND BIRGIT KOS PHOTOGRAPH CAMERON HAMMOND STYLING RACHEL GILL HAMMOND. TOWEL, £135, LETSSWIM.CO

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## Heating up



### ▲ FRUIT SALAD MANIS

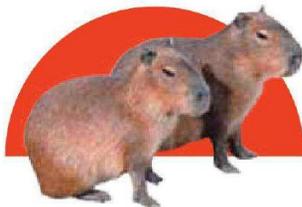
Searches for grapefruit/blueberry/cherry nails are up. Like a tuck shop on your talons



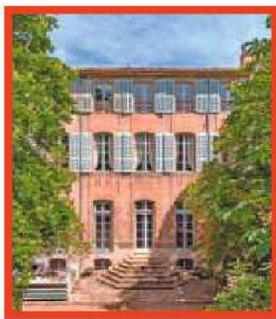
### ▲ OLYMPIC MERCH

As seen attached to It girls' handbags: the tackier the better

▲ **CAPYBARAS**  
Move over, sloths: these are the memeable animals du jour



▲ **GALLIFET**  
Chic garden restaurant in Aix-en-Provence loved by the fashion set



## Cooling down



### ▼ BROMPTON BIKE MAN

Now the LimeBike has taken over, it's time to say goodbye to him (button-down shirt and blazer; fold-up bike under his arm)



### ▼ GUEST STARITIS

When too many A-listers means you can't follow the plot

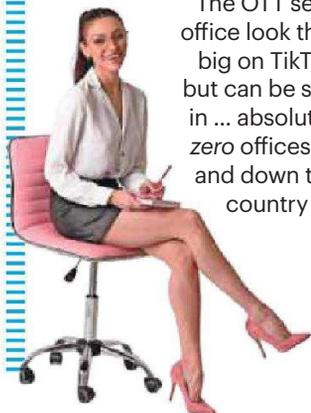
### ▼ 'NARRATIVE'

Becoming worryingly everyday in its usage. Not on our watch



### ▼ OFFICE SIREN

The OTT sexy office look that's big on TikTok but can be seen in ... absolutely zero offices up and down the country

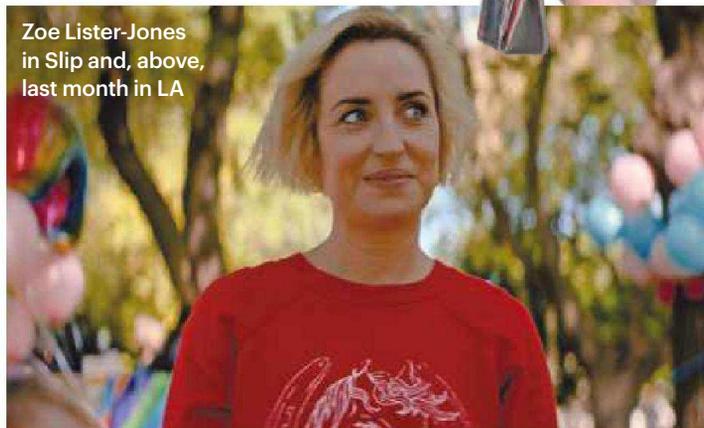


## Everyone's talking about ... Slip

"My pussy is a wormhole." Yep, you read that right. Welcome to *Slip*, a seven-part series (out on August 8 on ITVX) starring, written and directed by Zoe Lister-Jones. Executive produced by Dakota Johnson, it might just be one of the best shows we've seen all year. Lister-Jones plays Mae, a gallerista bored with her life until a one-night stand with a pop star reveals she is able to time travel into different realities every time she... orgasms. Lister-Jones says she wanted to base a TV show on female desire — but this take on *Sliding Doors* meets *Quantum Leap* is also funny, resonant and deeply touching.



Zoe Lister-Jones in *Slip* and, above, last month in LA



## Rise of the double shower

Get ready to share your shower, because posh bathroom studios are seeing a surge in demand for couple's showers. Drummonds, a maker of luxury bathrooms, reports that time-poor partners are seeking ten minutes of "togetherness" (ahem) with couple's showers set in extra-roomy cubicles. Female bathers are going for a hand shower on their side — to protect the blow-dry — while the blokes like a simpler set-up: a supersize rainfall or XXL rose. The same trend has trickled down at CP Hart, Waterworks and Ripples, but those looking for bathroom intimacy beware. At Ripples they are advising couples to check that their water pressure is hotel grade before they install this latest luxury addition — many domestic boilers can't handle two showers simultaneously. We say go with the flow.





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## One more thing...

A luxury handbag that doesn't break the bank is the wardrobe holy grail — and thankfully Hugo Boss has come up with just the thing.

The new Ariell bag combines a minimalist aesthetic with great-quality leather, much of it sourced from certified tanneries. We are equally delighted by the pastel colours, which are the perfect match for summer tailoring.

Ariell bags, £389 each, [hugoboss.com](http://hugoboss.com)

**Photograph** Marco Gazza  
**Styling** Flossie Saunders



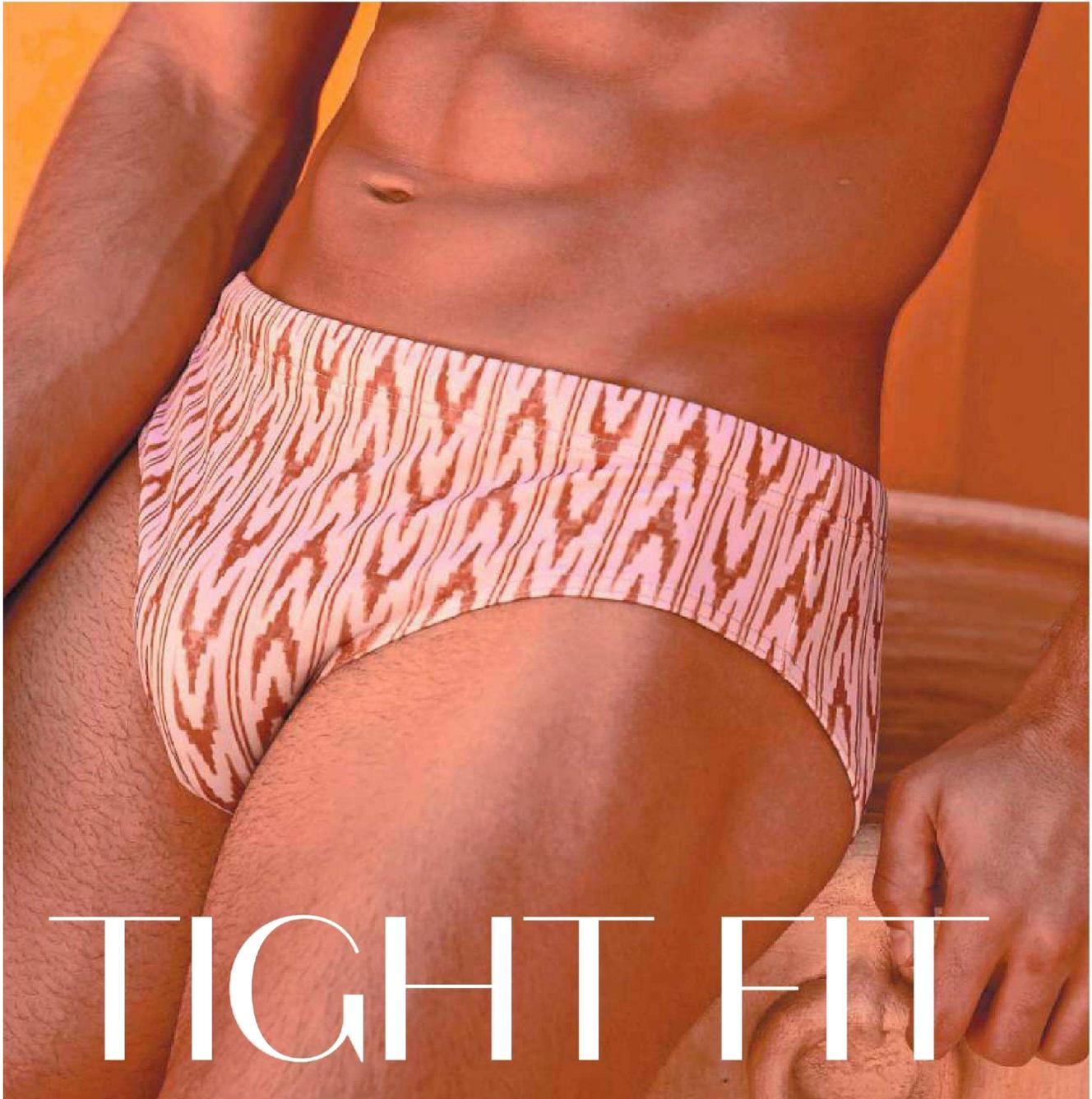
# LIZ EARLE



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†Instrumental testing





# TIGHT FIT

“You watch this space,” says Luke Day, the fashion director of *Man About Town* magazine. “When a brand as influential as Wales Bonner sends out *six* male models wearing tiny red trunks at its recent show in Paris, you know something big is about to happen.”

As British fashion’s unofficial trend-whisperer, Grace Wales Bonner has a huge influence on the way we shop. Who hasn’t got an Adidas tracksuit top and a pair of her cult Samba-collab trainers? “But then trunks were always going to make a comeback some time or another,” Day adds. “As soon as shorter shorts are on

Baggy board shorts begone!

Tiny trunks are back, says **Richard Gray**

**Above** Swimming briefs, £140, [abtany.com](http://abtany.com)

sale on the high street, designers have to move things on again. And we all saw Paul Mescal at Gucci.”

Last month social media went into meltdown when the *Normal People* star sat on the front row wearing a pair of thigh-high boxers at the brand’s fashion show in Milan — and when every trendy lad in town owns a pair of those increasingly diminutive “thigh-grazers”, surely the only way for designers to go is even smaller. Asos, a bellwether of what Gen Z are buying now, says it has seen a “significant year-on-year growth in sales of Speedos”. This is on the back of the swimwear brand’s 200 per cent

# Summer Style

spike in sales last summer. And when the largest global fashion search platform, Lyst, says the number of shoppers looking for “budgie smugglers” is up a whopping 89 per cent year-on-year, it’s a given: trunks are going to happen.

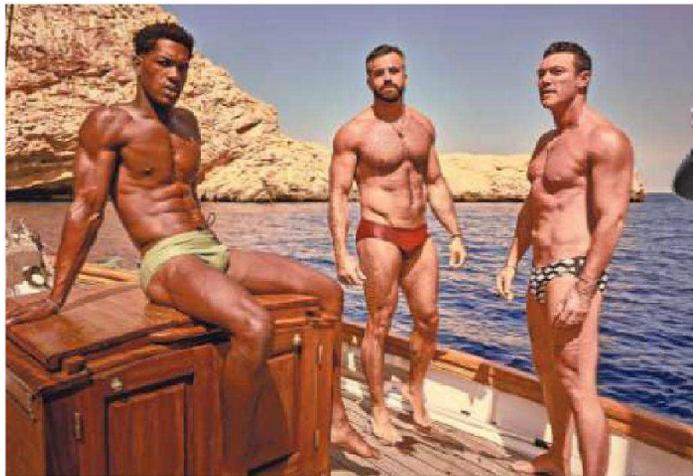
Nobody is really sure as to why they became cool again. Some cite Andrew Scott squeezing into a retro-patterned pair in *Ripley*; others our continuing love affair with ironic fashion. What with porn star moustaches, the return of the mullet and now, seemingly, every boy at school with an Eighties perm, what was once considered eye-rollingly naff suddenly looks really cool — *Baywatch* budgie smugglers included.

Lucy McGuire, the senior trends editor at Vogue Business, suggests that a boom in what the internet calls “babygirl men” may also be fuelling braver shopping. “Think Jacob Elordi, Timothée Chalamet and Pedro Pascal — men who aren’t afraid to show more skin and embrace bold style choices,” she says. Another theory is that we’re in the middle of the “reverse male gaze”, meaning men dressing provocatively for the attention of other men — gay and straight.

“No surprise there,” Day says, laughing. “For many men their body is a fashion accessory — of course you’re going to want to show it off.” If there’s one thing that can bring the girls and the gays together — usually over a bottle of Kylie’s rosé — it’s a gym-buff man in budgie smugglers.

But trunks can be tricky, so how can you find the perfect pair? First, there’s the nightmare of actually trying them on. Our advice: shop the same size you are in underwear, hold them up against yourself in a mirror and take along a friend you trust. While it’s not quite perfect, virtual try-on tech such as Snapchat Lens lets your avatar put on trunks without actually wearing them — no commitment necessary.

Shop Dsquared2 and Dolce & Gabbana for something a bit more flashy, so to speak, while on the high street, try Zara. For a DayGlo look, try Ron Dorff — the brand’s £85 neon briefs take a tan to the next level. The swimwear brand Abtany makes trunks with matching oversHORTS — a gent’s modesty now preserved. Try a pair in a primary colour and wear under low-slung jeans or camel chinos, leaving the waist of the trunks “just visible”; add a crisp white T-shirt for something smarter. It’s always worth mentioning the mighty Miu Miu — for summer the women’s collection teamed trunks with polo shirts and deck shoes, in a kind of “borrowed from the boys” preppy look. Well, now you can borrow it back again. For the brave, try something bonkers from



WALES BONNER

SAUL NASH

**Above** Trunks by BDXY, the actor Luke Evans’s brand. **Below** Ray Winstone in *Sexy Beast*; Mike Tindall in the jungle in *I’m a Celebrity ...*

Budgie Smuggler — the Australian brand reports selling a pair of briefs “every ten to fifteen minutes” in the UK.

However, it’s at this point that we issue a swimwear warning: not all trunks are made the same. Every man has a tale of the much-feared “baggy gusset”. Then there’s that all-important trunk prep. The correct protocol is essential for wearing something

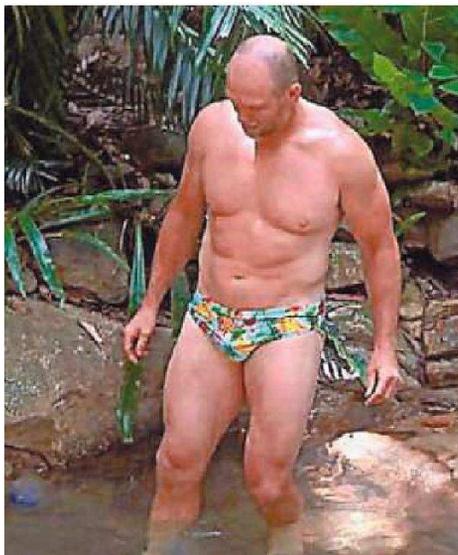
as high-cut as Speedos or trunks, says the men’s groomer Josh Gibson: “And it’s cordless clippers over scissors — every time.” A little bush is back but be reasonable, he advises. “Start with the largest guard first — a minimum setting of No 5 — then pull your trunks back on and review it. Errant ‘sideburns’ should always be addressed,” he adds. “That’s essential.”

After various “elastic mishaps”, including one rather embarrassing “see-through situation” — he refuses to elaborate further — the actor Luke Evans decided to start his own swimwear and underwear line, and it has quickly become an insider favourite. His BDXY swim briefs have a special UV-protective fabric woven from recycled nylon and marine plastics. Plus, Evans says, “added elastane, to keep your bits and pieces where they belong”.

And if you’re a bit, you know, shy? “Just pull on a pair of trunks, hit the sunlounger and relax — body positivity all the way,” Evans advises. Thank you! And, while we’re here, can we get a round of applause for Ray Winstone in the 2000 film *Sexy Beast*? His knockout yellow trunks are an inspiration for dad bods, whatever your age. Meanwhile, rugby royalty Mike Tindall broke the mould for the big lads when he wore a pair of fruit-print budgie smugglers in the jungle shower while on *I’m a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!* in 2022. The pictures are on the internet, just so you’re aware.

“Oh, you wait,” Day says. “Under cut-off denim shorts at festivals and posing for selfies at every trendy London lido, budgie smugglers, tiny trunks, Speedos, whatever you want to call them — you’re going to see a hell of a lot more bulges this summer.” Blimey. ■

**‘Pull on a pair of trunks, hit the sunlounger and relax — body positivity all the way’**



A woman with long, wavy blonde hair and blue eyes is standing on a set of wide, stone steps. She is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved, A-line dress with a small, multi-colored floral pattern. She is also wearing olive green, open-toe, platform sandals. The background features a stone wall and a large, leafy tree. The overall scene is outdoors and has a rustic, natural feel.

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EXQUISITE DRINKS

After years of long and inky eyelashes, naked ones are now in fashion. But can we really ditch our mascara, asks **Phoebe McDowell**

“I feel naked without it,” say the women who equate eschewing mascara with going commando. It’s a curious thing, then, that the product people go gaga for, that they’d take before anything else to a desert island, is — with some, at least — falling out of favour. Along with the very thing it bestows: inky lashes that flirt and flutter.

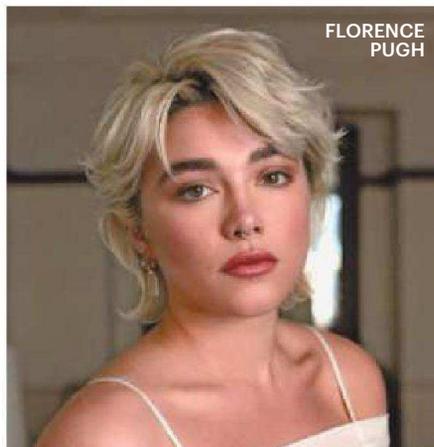
It may be, in part, a reaction to the fake-lash epidemic of the past five years, as seen on the kind of Love Islanders who paint their faces as if they were walls. Think individual clusters, but also cartoonish and cumbersome strip lashes loaded with adhesive and deprived of softness. From Leyton to Liverpool, women everywhere embraced the trend for mega-lashes, with lash bars lining the high street. Mascaras got in on the fakery too — take Lottie London Superfake Mascara (£8) and Maybelline The Falsies Lash Lift (£12). Yes, we hit peak lash.

Which might be why “no mascara trend” on TikTok has had 80 million posts — and no, it’s not just for the kids. As evidenced by me, aged 32, who is now more likely to be seen without mascara than with it. And not just in the office or on my way to the corner shop, but also when going out-out.

I’m in good company. Despite an exquisite and full face of make-up, Florence Pugh’s lashes for the *Dune: Part Two* press tour in Mexico were starkers. Meanwhile, the make-up artist Diane Kendal, who has forged a phenomenally successful career from painting other people’s faces, doesn’t wear a scrap. Meryl Streep, Tracee Ellis Ross and Léa Seydoux will be rolling their weightlessly lidded eyes because they were in on this long before it trended on TikTok. And long before Kylie Jenner, the poster girl for more is more, attended the Golden Globes without a speck on her lashes — though with discernible curl and colour, so a lash lift and tint was likely done in lieu.

Indeed, in the age of modern beauty there are treatments that facilitate the no mascara look. Ones that make the not-considerable pressure of looking alive and well achievable — and not, as one friend said, “like a naked mole rat”. Lash lifts (that’s a treatment that curls lashes from base to tip and can last for more than a month) and tints enable you to attempt no

# Lash out!



FLORENCE PUGH



LÉA SEYDOUX



TRACEE ELLIS ROSS



KYLIE JENNER

mascara, and colourwise, “dark brown is great for a more natural colour lift, but the most popular is black, preferred by those who like a matte finish. Blue-black is great for a bit of shine,” says Jaimineey Patel, head of training for Blink Brow Bar, which has noticed an increase in demand for the service. For Bambi-like length, people are turning to lash-lengthening serums (try UKLash Complex Peptide Eyelash Serum, £42). Valued in 2020 at nearly £600 million and projected to reach more than £1 billion by 2031, the global eyelash serum market is booming.

But no mascara doesn’t mean no eye make-up at all. “Just because you’re not wearing mascara doesn’t mean that you can’t slightly shape the eyes with eyeshadow,” says Jamie Genevieve, the make-up artist and founder of the beauty brand Vieve. “You can also play around when you don’t have the heaviness or distraction of mascara,” she says, referencing the likes of blusher.

This trend is gaining traction at an especially useful time, when pollen hangs in the air and threatens to unravel eye make-up quicker than you can say “Achoo”. Another year-round problem it solves is the application-and-removal process, which inarguably is a hassle. Seemingly no amount of cotton wool pads and micellar water can save you from waking up looking like Alice Cooper. That said, Victoria Beckham Beauty Future Lash Mascara (£32) is removable with water — no cleansers and cloths necessary. Also on the subtle end of the spectrum, should you not be able to face going without, are Ilia Limitless Lash Mascara (from £14), a clear product that separates lashes without smothering them, and Ere Perez Natural Almond Mascara (£28), which, with its nourishing oil, acts more like a tinted conditioner.

With more people investing in their skin by way of lasers and radiofrequency and their brows with microblading and laminating, it makes sense that make-up routines are dwindling. Forgoing mascara is the final frontier of the “clean girl” aesthetic that set the internet alight last year; an extension of the five-minute face that supposedly caters to minimalists but actually involves a diary full of time-consuming and costly appointments. Fresh and modern, it gives credence to the idea that looking too done is, well, done. ■

@phoebejmcd



# Let's get ready to ramble

Partying? Please. Gen Z are spending their weekends walking — **Hannah Connolly** heads out on Britain's hippest hiking trail

**A Bengal cat on a lead** at the base of a 200ft cliff wasn't exactly what I had envisioned seeing while hiking for five and half hours along the Sussex coastline. Then again, neither was discovering that Stan Smiths were "appropriate" footwear for rocky terrain, or that misplaced celebrity-endorsed lip glosses would be reliable signs of heading in the right direction. Welcome to the world of Gen Z hiking.

When a friend first mentioned the Seven Sisters hike, I had assumed she was jokingly referring to a walk up Seven Sisters Road in London (which is pretty long), but the penny soon dropped at mentions of the sea — decidedly not a feature of the N15 postcode. What she was talking about was a walk along the coast that was quickly becoming the weekend activity du jour for London-based twentysomethings on the hunt for outdoorsy plans.

Lately, mentions of "wholesome" or "reset" weekends seem to be as ubiquitous among my age bracket (early-to-mid twenties) as "fancy a drink?" In fact, you'd be more likely to see some of my friends up and outside by 6am than rolling into bed. Painting in the park or nature reserve trips have become the prevailing leisure activities for Gen Z — I've been invited to both.

Indeed, once I'd heard of this hike, every other Instagram post I came across was related. "Pic dumps" took over my feed showing those basking in the sun (and smugness) after completing the route. For every high-ponytail, Lululemon-clad selfie there was a 0.5 lens shot of a Salomon-wearing "gorpcore" enthusiast finally putting their gear to good use. After all, have you really completed a hike if you haven't told everyone about it?

The general gist is as follows: get up early and leave London for Seaford in East Sussex. From there, walk for

four to eight hours — depending on your aptitude and chosen route — across (you guessed it) seven cliffs to the end point of Eastbourne. I got up at 5am to start my journey, which didn't immediately feel very "wholesome", to meet a friend on a connecting train in Brighton. There were six of us set to do the walk initially, though our numbers quickly dwindled — sounding not dissimilar to the plotline of *You Are Here*, the latest novel from the *One Day* author David Nicholls, which is set during a coast-to-coast walking tour starting in the Lake District.

The first to drop out from my group snagged a last-minute Glastonbury ticket (fair enough). The other three came to the conclusion that a five-hour walk wasn't for them, and instead they'd meet us at the pub at the other end (also fair enough). However, unlike *You Are Here*, there wasn't romance on the cards for my companion and me, though it became a powerful bonding experience nonetheless.

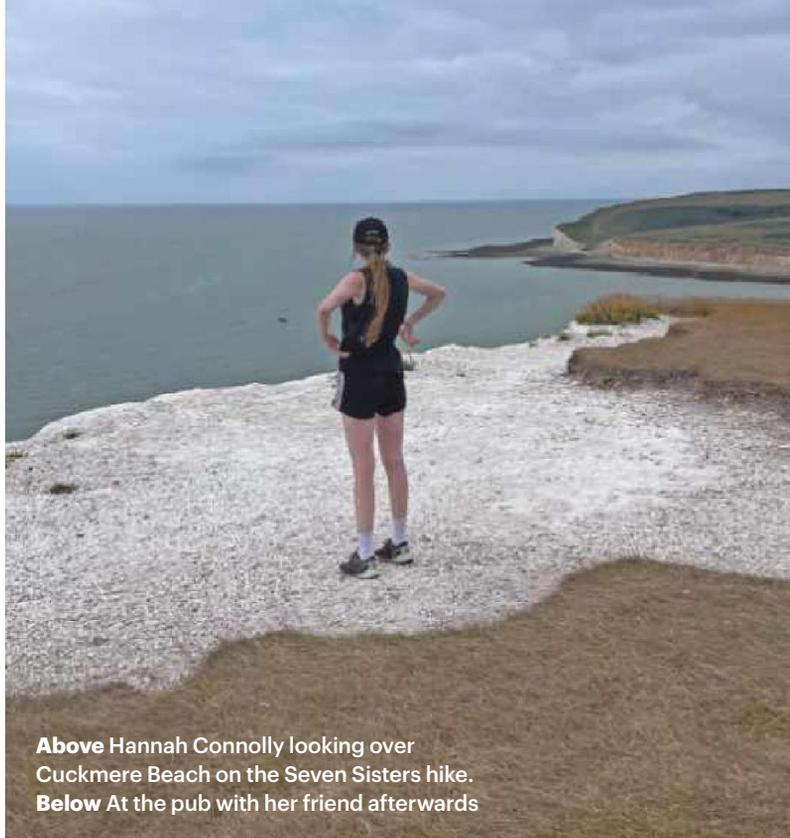
It's clear at Seaford station who is heading on the hike — if not from the oat-milk latte orders at the few open cafés first thing in the morning, then by the athleisure and clanking sounds of Hydro Flasks suspended from Kangol backpacks. Increases in traffic to this otherwise sleepy seaside town have been observed by the Govia Thameslink Railway, which told me that off-peak travel to Seaford and Eastbourne was up 9 per cent in March.

This increased appetite for the great outdoors is something that Chloe Combi, a bestselling author and consultant on Gen Z, has noted. "There's an enormous uptick I've noticed in Gen Z in enthusiasm for outdoor pursuits like walking, nature and hiking," she says. "I've also noticed a growth in parallel pursuits like painting outdoors and outdoor yoga."

Why is this? Combi suggests the cost of living crisis and the desire for "free" ways of connecting with others are forces at play. As for the biggest factor for the great return to nature? Mental health, she states. After "a young lifetime of the online world, and social media in particular", she says that a return to nature is "obviously going to seem pretty appealing and therapeutic".

A (very) steep incline gets things going for me and my friend. Admittedly we did think we had rather impressively peaked our first sister a mere 20 minutes after setting off, but a breathless view from the top revealed we had not only climbed up a, let's say, much smaller cousin, but that we were a fair way off from even getting to the base of the first sister. It was at this point I realised that despite the selfies and the TikToks, this wasn't a beginner's hike. Nor was it one you could get out of very easily once you had begun (buses are once an hour on Sundays and take some time getting to). So, for all the selfies and the Daunt Books tote bags filled with sourdough sandwiches (yes, I am being serious), the Seven Sisters hike isn't easy.

About an hour in you're faced with the choice of taking an hour-long sheep-field detour or literally crossing a bit of the Channel — cue wading



**Above** Hannah Connolly looking over Cuckmere Beach on the Seven Sisters hike.  
**Below** At the pub with her friend afterwards



through at above-knee height to save your feet the extra mileage. From here it's all about the sisters, with the steepest incline up a 200ft cliff proving particularly challenging. It is a great spot to stop for a quick photoshoot — once you've stopped sweating, of course.

Dr Meg Jay, a clinical psychologist and author of *The Twentysomething Treatment* and *The Defining Decade*, suggests that the extreme nature of the experience is something of a siren call to the twentysomething first-time hiker. "The adolescent and young adult brain is drawn to what is new," she says. "It is developmentally normal and typical to want to explore the world in all ways and so part of exploration is doing what is exciting and even extreme."

In the end, after walking for more than five hours and despite being sunburnt, sweaty and (very) achy, it was an incredibly rewarding experience, especially turning to see just how far we'd come from across the clifftops. Though I admit I did post it on Instagram and I did gloat (quite a lot) about it at the pub at the end — oh, and at every opportunity since. ■

**'I realised that despite the selfies and the TikToks, this wasn't a beginner's hike'**

# Costume DRAMA

Georgiana Huddart is the woman who breathed new life into a forgotten Eighties crinkle fabric — and now the A-list can't get enough of her swimming costumes. Are you in the Hunza G club, asks **Karen Dacre**

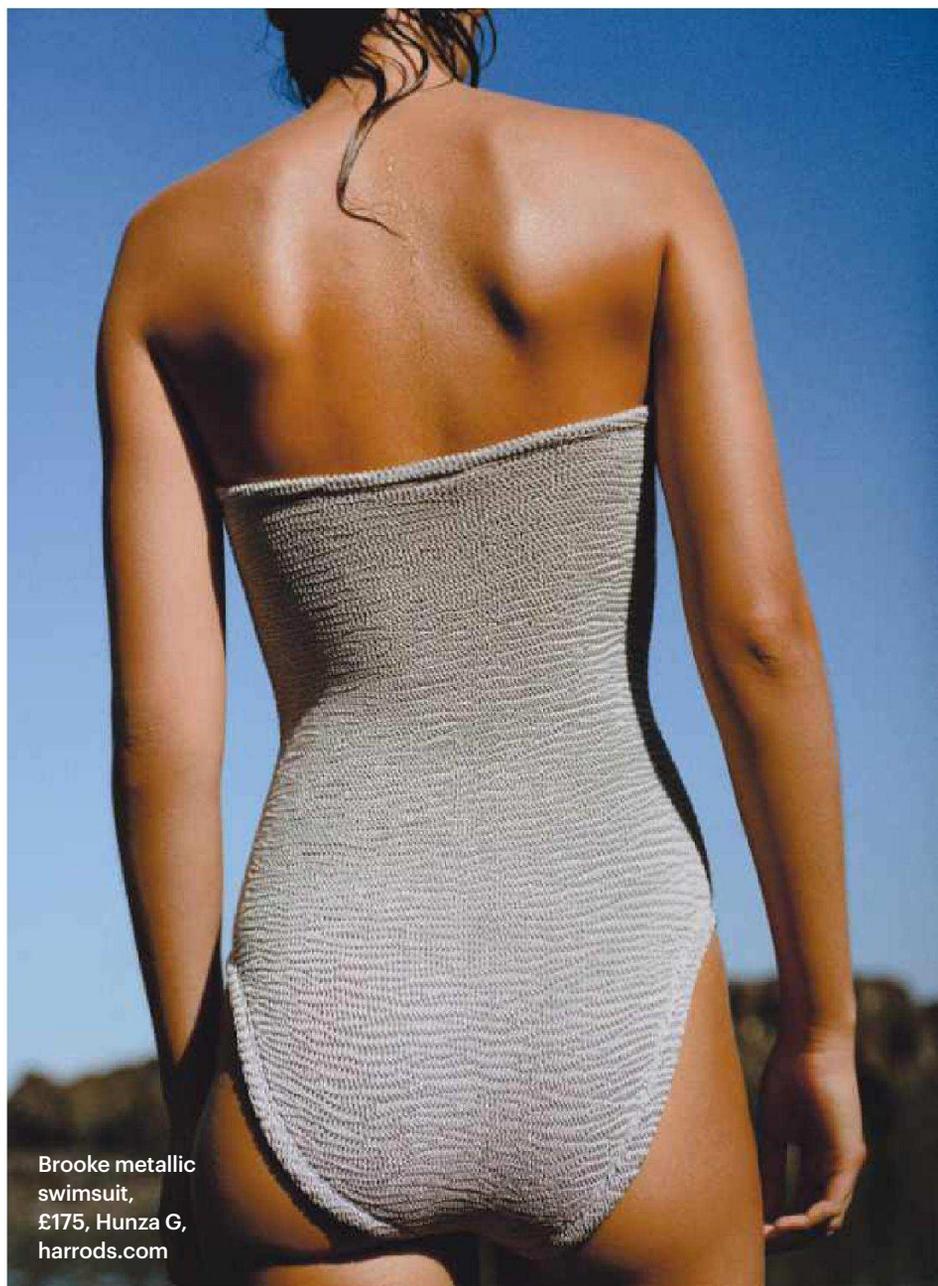
**Last summer I was on a beach** in Mallorca, building a sandcastle with two feet lodged into the Mediterranean, when a woman tapped me on the shoulder. “Is that a Hunza?” she squealed, pointing at my unassuming (or so I thought) black swimsuit. Confirmation of her suspicions meant the squeal gave way to a broad grin: “Same!” My swimsuit twin and I weren't the only ones to find ourselves striking a match. In fact a scan of those adorning the sunloungers that surrounded this chance meeting suggested that our swimsuit — a scoop-back style crafted from the same crinkle stretch that Julia Roberts wore in her opening scene in *Pretty Woman* — might just be the most popular swimming costume around.

If you've spent any time on a beach (see also: paddling in the shallow end of your local leisure centre's pool) in recent years, there's a high chance you've come to the same conclusion. Hunza G costumes and bikinis — which cost from about £165 and come in shades ranging from bubblegum pink and lime green to neutral navy and brown, and offer the wearer serious stretch appeal — are impossible to miss.

That we've all gone crazy for the crinkle is music to the ears of Hunza G's co-founder Georgiana Huddart, 39, who relaunched the brand ten years ago with a tiny collection of swimsuits. A childrenswear line, accessories and a sweatshirt or two have since been added to the range.

“I'm often told that wearing Hunza G is a bit like being in a gang,” she says when we meet in her Soho HQ. “With us, people don't seem to be put off by the women they meet who are wearing the same thing, but rather it has the opposite effect. It's a club and everybody is invited.”

When Huddart says “everybody”, she really means it. Certainly her intention with Hunza G — which offers only one size in its swimwear, with the promise that it is designed to fit a broad range of body types — is to welcome everyone into her world. It is with this motivation that Hunza G is launching its first line of post-mastectomy swimwear. “There are lots of brands that don't make people feel that way. There's a sense that they're not fashionable enough or that they're not the right size. What motivates me is to offer a joyful experience.”



Brooke metallic swimsuit, £175, Hunza G, [harrods.com](http://harrods.com)



**Left** Georgiana Huddart, co-founder of Hunza G. **Below, clockwise from left** Fans of the swimwear brand include Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, Rihanna, Kim Kardashian and Emily Ratajkowski

Eliminating what she describes as “size trauma” for anyone wishing to buy a swimsuit is only one part of Huddart’s plan to create a future-facing business that feels right for 2024. “My worst nightmare for us is for someone to spend their hard-earned cash on Hunza G and not feel good about it. I want people to take out what they’ve bought from us year after year and still feel amazing. I truly believe that’s how we create longevity.”

There’s no mistaking Huddart’s passion for the crinkle fabric — a knitted Lycra and elastane combination that is made on a circular loom, meaning it has no seams. Her first memory of the distinctive fabric is a pink swimsuit that her mum, the former *Vogue* stylist and interior designer Bella Huddart, would wear when she was pregnant. “There was also a red dress in the same fabric, which we kept in a dressing-up box. We used to make my brother dress up in it. He loves to remind everyone that he was the real inspiration behind my brand.”

Huddart rediscovered the Hunza brand in her late teens. “I remember going to Berlin for a friend’s birthday and finding a whole rail of Hunza in a vintage shop — I bought it all for €100,” she says. “I’d wear it to festivals or house parties and people were always obsessed. Even then I was attracted to the flexibility. Anyone could wear it.”

After finishing university and dabbling in a career as a stylist, Huddart convinced Peter Meadows — the Brit who started the brand in 1984, and who remains a director — to let her relaunch Hunza for the Instagram generation. “We met at a party. He was really supportive, but I don’t know whether he thought it was going to be what I thought it was going to be,” she says.

In its earliest incarnation Hunza G was a direct-to-consumer operation, with Huddart selling a handful

of swimsuit styles in a handful of colours through social media. Then things really took off. “Rosie Huntington-Whiteley [the English model and actress] tagged us in a picture with a caption that said one of our swimsuits was her favourite, and everything went a bit wild,” Huddart says. “We got over 700 orders in a day — the website crashed.”

Huddart, who was pregnant with her son, Frank, at the time (she and her husband, Gabriel Andrews, have since had a daughter, Stella, too), remembers the stress of packing orders with her growing bump and having to let people know they’d have to wait a while to receive their costume. “The fact they were difficult to get only seemed to fuel things. Everybody wanted one. We had Rihanna and the Kardashians buying and wearing Hunza G within those first two years.”

It helped Huddart’s cause that at the time the swimwear market was a bleak place. “It was so boring,” she says. “It seemed like it was just women in Australia, who were size 8 with six packs, being shot in triangle bikinis.” Then there was the high street, which was doing copies of exactly that. “It didn’t feel cool and it didn’t feel diverse and it didn’t feel interesting. I knew there was a place for a more fashion-led swim brand.”

Instagram has been central to Huddart’s success, not just as a vessel to promote without overheads but because of the way it has changed our attitude



# ASPINAL

L O N D O N



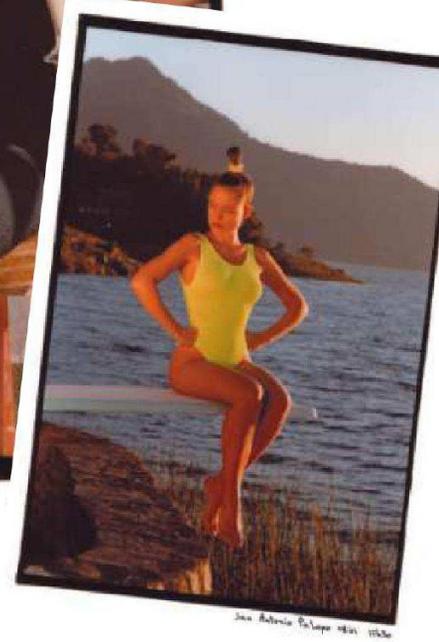
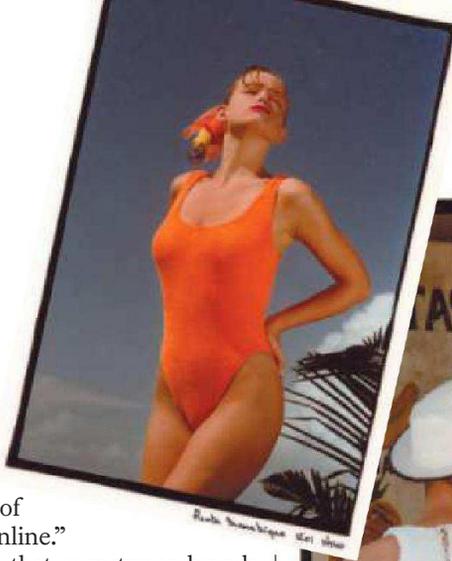
to summer holiday style. “Now you take your best stuff, you take the most amount of photos and, of course, you share them all online.”

It is little wonder, then, that resortwear brands dedicated solely to holiday dressing are growing in number. Huddart, who has recently added categories such as sunhats and a line of linen co-ords, is generally delighted by the changing tide. She is less enthused by the number of Hunza G copycats on the market, however. “For the most part it’s flattering,” she says, “and, of course, I’d expect there to be crossover from time to time, but we’ve had instances of somebody copying our whole website, from the models to the campaigns to the copy underneath pictures. I find that really aggressive in business.”

Travelling the globe with Hunza G — the brand has pop-up stores in London and Los Angeles, and is stocked in department stores across the world — has made Huddart an authority on the swimwear that appeals most to women now. “At the moment colour is making a comeback,” she says. “Generally people are a bit bored of the quiet luxury thing. We’re also finding that customers are increasingly drawn to high-waisted styles.”

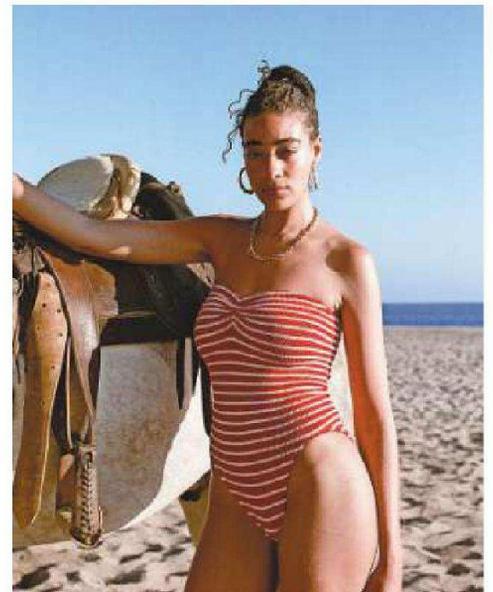
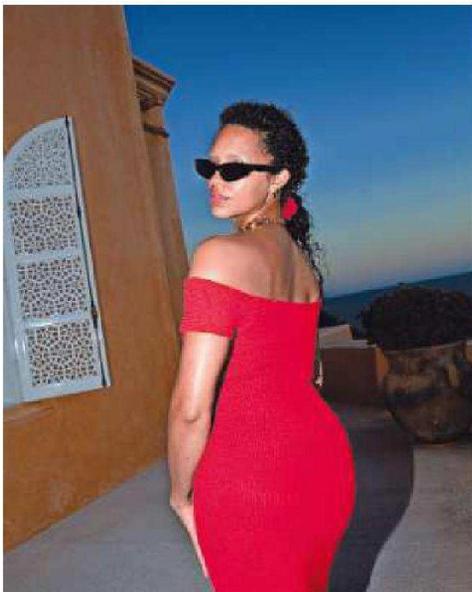
Bubblegum pink and lilac are among the brand’s most in-demand colours. How to wear the pieces? “With confidence,” Huddart says. “The sort of swimwear that speaks to me is not super-girly or overtly sexy. I want the wearer to feel cool but also capable of doing things. Hunza G should make you feel strong and empowered and never vulnerable. And, of course, it should make you feel happy.” ■

[hunzag.com](http://hunzag.com)



**Above** Hunza first went on sale in 1984 and was popular in the 1980s and 1990s.

**Below, from left** The musician Kelsey Lu, the model Diana Veras and the social media influencer Reign Judge all wear the brand



# BASIC BEACH

Status towels! Cricket hats! Boxer shorts?! **Karen Dacre** presents the summer 2024 style clichés. How many can you spot?

Edit **Helen Atkin**



## XXL raffia

The Jacquemus straw hat that almost broke the internet when it landed in 2018 is back in bag form. A supersized raffia tote — big enough to hold a Stanley cup, a ring flash and the required Rhode lip gloss — is social currency. These hot bags (favourites include Loewe, Celine and Victoria Beckham’s Mango collab) should be worn with everything from a trouser suit to a tiny bikini.

**Clockwise from left** Oversize tote, £79, [mintvelvet.com](http://mintvelvet.com). Woven bag, £262, [mamoriginals.com](http://mamoriginals.com). Victoria Beckham bag, £170, [mango.com](http://mango.com). Straw tote, £85, [stories.com](http://stories.com). Jute tote, £88, [freepeople.com](http://freepeople.com)



## Cold-toe sandals

These uncomfortable-looking shoes — which you can’t seem to move for in fashion circles at the moment — take their lead from the farmers’ markets of the Mediterranean; you’d most likely pick up a pair along with an overpriced throw and a dodgy bar of soap. Wear with slouchy trousers to conjure memories of forgotten gap years.

**From top** Leather sandals, £265, [toa.st](http://toa.st). Brown sandals, £276, [Dries Van Noten](http://DriesVanNoten.com), [net-a-porter.com](http://net-a-porter.com). Flat sandals with metallic embellishment, £100, [massimodutti.com](http://massimodutti.com). Link sandals, £860, [therow.com](http://therow.com)

## Fielding hats

Cricket players make for unlikely style icons, or so we thought until the hat of 2024 presented itself. One part sou’wester, another “Ben Stokes patrolling the outfield at Lord’s” — Ganni’s leopard-print version is a hit on the socials, although you may find what you need in the local Decathlon.

**From left** Print hat, £145, [ganni.com](http://ganni.com). Frayed hat, £125, [jacquemus.com](http://jacquemus.com). Logo hat, £182, [JW Anderson](http://JWAnderson.com), [ssense.com](http://ssense.com). Black hat, £65, [hunzag.com](http://hunzag.com)



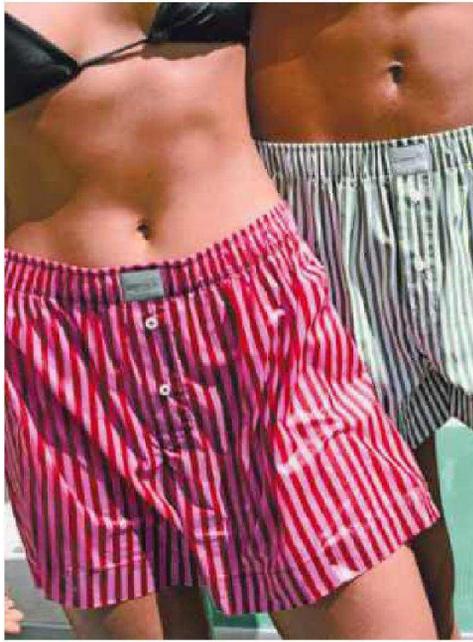
## Beach boxers

Blame our collective determination to have extreme comfort at all costs, but there's no escaping the boy boxer as a summer essential.

The influencers' favourite is baggy and stripy (blue is ideal).

For the ultimate sartorial cliché, team with an oversized shirt worn unbuttoned up to the waist. A summer uniform is born.

**Below left, from top** Pink stripy boxers, £60, withnothingunderneath.com. Stripy seersucker boxers, £55, Polo Ralph Lauren, ralphlauren.co.uk. Boxer-style shorts, £13, hm.com. **Below** Boxers, £62 each, commesi.com



## Vintage surf tees

Chances are that the influencers sporting oversized vintage surf-shack T-shirts aren't old enough to remember thinking that Fat Willy's in Newquay was the epicentre of the universe, or at least believing its merch to be the coolest on the planet.

Fast-forward 30 years and it's Vinted that's winning the youth vote with oversized T-shirts like those Brad from *Neighbours* would wear. So far, so gnarly — unless you bought yours from Asos. **Above** T-shirt, £41, surf.inc. **Below, from left** T-shirt, £28, rapanuiclothing.com. T-shirt, £35, passenger-clothing.com



## Wild swimsuits

A one-piece that says "did I mention I like wild swimming?" is sartorial catnip where the internet is concerned, with brands that offer rash guards along with their bikinis very much in demand. Think less about what your suit of choice does for your leg length and more about what it does for your stroke speed and you'll make a big splash, both online and in the local lido.

**Left** Surf suit, £328, Abysse, freepeople.com. **Below** Red one-piece, £200, abysseofficial.com. Sleeveless wetsuit, £346, Cynthia Rowley, wolfsandbadger.com



## Status towels

With copycats of Soho House's iconic stripes now ten-a-penny, the new beach flex is a towel that costs almost as much as a set of easyJet flights for the whole family. Favourites include Casablanca's gradient-effect towel (a cool £270!) and Bottega Veneta's heavily logoed version, which, at £410, will put a sizeable dent in the ice-cream budget.

**Above** Banana towel, £410, bottegabeneta.com. **Right** Graphic-print towel, £270, casablancaparis.com. Logo towel, £450, loewe.com. Swan towel, £490, burberry.com

# BY THE BOOK

What do Dua Lipa and Marc Jacobs take to the sunlounger? We ask our favourite bookworms for their top beach reads



**India Knight**

STYLE COLUMNIST AND AUTHOR

*Margo's Got Money Troubles*

by Ruffi Thorpe

Margo is 20 and has just had a baby (by her English professor, who doesn't want to know). She can't afford childcare and so loses her waitressing job. Two of her flatmates move out because of the crying baby and Margo can't afford the rent. So she starts an OnlyFans account. The premise is good and the execution even better — nonjudgmental, original and very funny; the book is warm and generous too. I loved it. Also, A24 is making it into a series, starring Elle Fanning and Nicole Kidman.



**Dua Lipa**

POP STAR

*Tenth of December* by George Saunders

This collection from the master of short stories is the perfect treasure trove to take to the beach. At turns it's darkly twisted and funny as hell, but what shines through each story is Saunders's great compassion for humankind.



**Marc Jacobs**

DESIGNER

*The Great Gatsby* by F Scott Fitzgerald

It's a book that I'm always drawn to. Daisy Buchanan is one of the greatest literary characters for me.



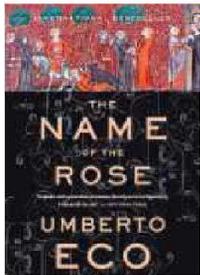
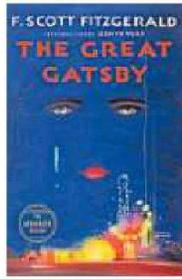
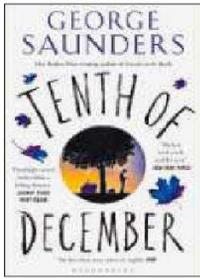
**Rebecca F Kuang**

AUTHOR

*The Name of the Rose* by Umberto Eco

If I'm at the beach it means I've finally hit all my deadlines, or am temporarily pretending they do not exist, and can dive into something without distraction. Therefore a good beach read is one that demands all my concentration. This summer it's *The Name of the Rose*, which has been described to me as a "murder mystery about semiotics". Eating it right up like tiramisu.





## Arlo Parks

MUSICIAN

*Rilke on Love and Other Difficulties*, translated by John JL Mood

This anthology has a tenderness and thoughtfulness that makes it perfect for submerging yourself in as you soak up the sun. A very special book.



## Jennifer Egan

AUTHOR

*The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins

The beach can be distracting and sleep-inducing, so a beach read must be compelling enough to hold its own amid all that. *The Woman in White* is a riveting crime masterpiece that's not so much a whodunnit as a howdunnit, with a wild, twisty plot, an irresistible villain and gothic scenery. It's hard to put down wherever you read it.



## Priya Ahluwalia

DESIGNER

*Open Water* by Caleb Azumah Nelson

I love reading and have so many favourites, but I think my favourite beach read is *Open Water*. It's a beautifully poetic coming-of-age love story. I was really moved when reading it and it's a book I could read again and again.

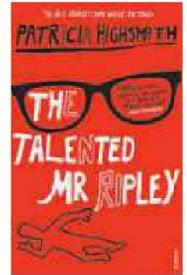
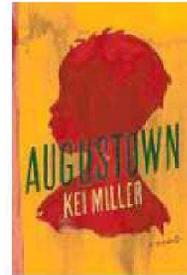
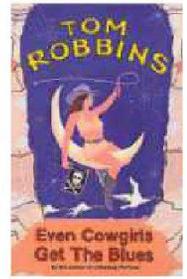
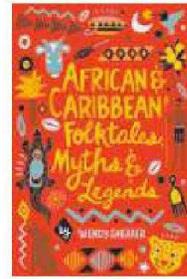
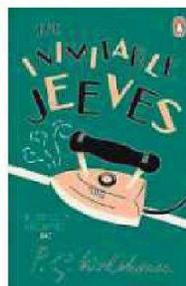
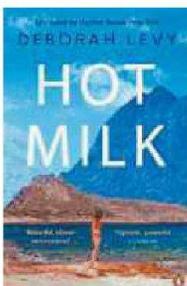
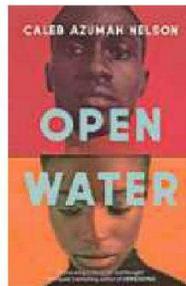
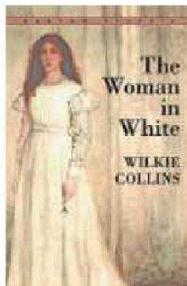


## Sarah Gwonyoma

FOUNDER OF @WHAT SARAH READ NEXT

*Hot Milk* by Deborah Levy

I'm rather tardy to the Deborah Levy appreciation club. It's only in the past year or so that I've discovered her writing. *Hot Milk* will for ever be that modern and timeless classic summer read. A coming-of-age novel that explores the strange and monstrous nature of womanhood. It is dreamlike and utterly compulsive.



## Monica Heisey

WRITER

*The Jeeves and Wooster series* by PG Wodehouse

What I look for from a beach read: laugh-out-loud funny, smart but still silly, something I can pick back up after two Aperol spritzes without becoming confused. I've been taking PG Wodehouse's Jeeves books on holiday for years and they always deliver. Take one and leave it in your Airbnb, a sort of pay-it-forward situation for boiled egg jokes.



## Saul Nash

DESIGNER

*African & Caribbean Folktales, Myths & Legends* by Wendy Shearer

I love this book. It has many short reads, so my attention never diverts from what I am reading.



**Megan Nolan**  
AUTHOR

*Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*  
by Tom Robbins

The ultimate summer book, one I pilfered from a parent’s shelves when I was 12. Its wildness, absurdity and wisdom gave me a glimpse of adult life that might be thrilling instead of just frightening. I am about to pack it to reread for the first time in 20 years.



**Reni Eddo-Lodge**  
AUTHOR

*Augustown* by Kei Miller

This is my ultimate beach read. It has an explosive beginning that draws in a reader in the best way, excellent storytelling, incredible prose. It will keep you absorbed until the sun goes down.



**Bella Mackie**  
AUTHOR

*The Talented Mr Ripley*  
by Patricia Highsmith

On a summer holiday I always turn towards thrillers. This is a gripping tale of jealousy, infatuation and rage against a background of sun-drenched Italian beaches. Perfect to read as the cicadas sing and the light fades.

# ‘It’s a glamorous, wild ride’

Already a fan of *Sex and the City*, the author Mai Sennaar was thrilled when Sarah Jessica Parker championed her debut novel, *They Dream in Gold*. **Roisin Kelly** meets the rising literary star

**Six years ago, as she attempted** to write her first novel, Mai Sennaar would binge-watch episodes of *Sex and the City* to get through moments of writer’s block. “I’ve always loved that show,” the 32-year-old author says from her home in Baltimore. “I was hooked as soon as I started watching. It became part of my routine.” She loved the series for its “sophisticated yet funny and light-hearted” tone, the “deep issues” it discusses and the fact that “every woman can understand and relate to at least one of the characters”.

Fast forward to 2024 and Sennaar is finally about to release *They Dream in Gold*, the book she started working on all those years ago. It’s “an incredible, full-circle moment”, because her US publisher is none other than Sarah Jessica Parker, *Sex and the City*’s vivacious, Manolo-loving Carrie Bradshaw.

Parker, who has her own publishing imprint — SJP Lit — describes the 432-page novel as “a mouth-watering delight, subtle yet striking”. It’s the fourth book the actress has championed with Zando, an independent American publisher. Here in the UK, it’s being released by Pan Macmillan.

Sennaar had received lots of interest from publishers but, after meeting Parker on Zoom, found the decision to work with her “very easy. She had a really deep understanding — I knew her love for the book was genuine.” They met in person later on, which Sennaar says “was just amazing”, and have stayed in contact. “I travelled half the globe through this sumptuous story about motherhood, diaspora and ambition,” Parker posted to her nearly 10 million Instagram followers last month. “I can’t wait to discuss Mai’s magnificent novel with you this summer.”

The book travels from New York and Paris to Senegal, Switzerland and Rio throughout the 1960s as Mansour, a Senegalese singer, mysteriously disappears, separating him from his heavily pregnant music-manager wife, Bonnie. Flitting between the past and the present day, we come to learn of Mansour’s troublesome history, as Bonnie and the other women he has left behind — his mother, aunt and



libra Khalil Traoré, Evan Angeliastro

friend — get lost in their memories of him. There's a tense undercurrent of a racially divided, rioting America, but also the rich, colourful glamour of Parisian jazz clubs, raucous parties and Rio music festivals.

Sennaar says the story “is personal but not autobiographical”. Her father travelled to the West African country in the Nineties and loved it so much that he moved the family — Sennaar, her mother, older brother and two sisters — there from Baltimore when Sennaar was nine.

In Senegal, the languages spoken were Wolof, a West African language, and French. Sennaar could speak neither. “Adjusting [to life] there was a challenge because of the language barrier and cultural differences. It was a rough start but within a year I learnt enough Wolof to fit in,” she says.

The family moved back to America when Sennaar was 12, but just like her father, she had fallen in love with Senegal. She visits regularly, calling it her “second home”, speaking



The author  
Mai Sennaar.  
With Sarah  
Jessica Parker,  
above right

happily of its “super-diverse cities, great weather, beaches and festivals. It’s a fun lifestyle.”

Sennaar seems like fun too — her joyful nature is reflected in the pages of her book. There are rich descriptions of music, song and dance, influenced by her upbringing. Her mother is one of the few African-American female composers to have worked on Broadway, while her father was an agent for musicians. It meant Sennaar grew up in “a super-artistic home”, with her family having impromptu jam sessions — her father playing his guitar while the rest of them sat on the stairs singing. Home was a revolving door of “not just black celebrities and cultural influencers, but those who were very much involved in activism”.

Initially, she didn’t want *They Dream in Gold* to become “a really racially charged story, because a lot of books and art about black life tend to centre around pain, angst and danger”, instead aiming for something that was “actually enjoyable to read”. However, while listening to songs celebrating black pride by James Brown, Sennaar felt she wasn’t “being intellectually honest” if she didn’t bring race into the narrative.

“It’s meant to be a glamorous, wild ride,” she says, comparing it to Hitchcock’s *To Catch a Thief* and *North by Northwest*. “I think anyone who loves that style of visually beautiful film will enjoy the book too.”

Does she have her sights set on a film adaptation of *They Dream in Gold* then? “It’s certainly a hope,” Sennaar says with a smile. “I think the characters lend themselves really well to actors. Bonnie especially — she’s an intellectual, kind of ratty and self-consumed, but still a very altruistic African-American female archetype.”

For now Sennaar is busy preparing for a book tour, “enjoying life” and working on a spin-off book about the character Claudine, Bonnie’s mother. She says the main message of the book is that “no matter where you go, no matter where you are, [the world] is one place and we’re having versions of one experience. In my crazy, globe-trotting life, that’s what I’ve come away with. It sounds clichéd, but it’s true for me.” ■

*They Dream in Gold* by Mai Sennaar (Pan Macmillan £16.99) is out on August 8

To order the books featured go to [timesbookshop.co.uk](http://timesbookshop.co.uk) or call 020 3176 2935. Free UK standard P&P on online orders over £25. Special discount for Times+ members. Even Cowgirls Get the Blues, £16.99, [bedfordsquarepublishers.co.uk](http://bedfordsquarepublishers.co.uk)

# HAVE YOU PACKED?

Whether it's Barbados or Bognor, we've got your summer essentials sorted

Edit **Helen Atkin**



A neutral floaty dress is your best friend for staying cool while sightseeing. This one by Proenza Schouler also comes in white

## CITY HOPPER

**Main picture** Print midiskirt, £119, [massimodutti.com](http://massimodutti.com). **1** Stripy trousers, £79, [whistles.com](http://whistles.com). **2** Ribbed vest, £16, [johnlewis.com](http://johnlewis.com). **3** Woven tote, £341, [dragondiffusion.com](http://dragondiffusion.com). **4** Cereal City Guide: Copenhagen, £25, [hm.com](http://hm.com). **5** Sandals, £880, [loropiana.com](http://loropiana.com). **6** Dress, £475, [proenzaschouler.com](http://proenzaschouler.com). **7** Sunglasses, £150, [finlayandco.com](http://finlayandco.com). **8** Spiral ring, £60, [Côté Caché, wolfandbadger.com](http://Côté Caché, wolfandbadger.com). **9** Compact cabin suitcase, £750, [montblanc.com](http://montblanc.com)

Think gap-year travels but with a little more polish — go for sundresses in bold colours and embrace the classic holiday-print tee



## BOHO BATHER

**Main picture** Bikini set, £109, and skort, £59, [triangl.com](http://triangl.com). **1** T-shirt, £185, [isabelmarant.com](http://isabelmarant.com). **2** Bikini, £280, [Missoni](http://Missoni), [selfridges.com](http://selfridges.com). **3** Trousers, £50, [mango.com](http://mango.com). **4** Suitcase, £1,550, [rimowa.com](http://rimowa.com). **5** Straw hat, £55, [cos.com](http://cos.com). **6** Sunglasses, £4, [hm.com](http://hm.com). **7** Dress, £240, [casaraki.com](http://casaraki.com). **8** Backgammon sarong, £69, [fruitybooty.co.uk](http://fruitybooty.co.uk). **9** Necklace, £168, [anni-lu.com](http://anni-lu.com). **10** Bag, £75, [thejacksons.co.uk](http://thejacksons.co.uk)

# MR MARVIS



With 10 different styles, MR MARVIS has the perfect shorts with the ultimate fit for every occasion. Our shorts are made in Portugal using high-quality fabrics including stretch cotton, airy piqué, ribbed & dapper corduroy, lightweight linen and – our latest addition – super soft terry. Pair your favourite with one of our limited edition tops to create a full MR MARVIS look. Shop our Spring/Summer collection now on [mrmarvis.co.uk](http://mrmarvis.co.uk)





Layers, layers, layers. The smart way to staycation is to be prepared for all weathers in a day. Rapanui's lined anorak is just the thing for cooler (and wetter) moments

## STAYCATIONER

**Main picture** Fleece, £158, freepeople.com. **1** Towel, £85, shopbaina.com. **2** Swimsuit, £55, stories.com. **3** Jumper, £125, finisterre.com. **4** Cap, £25, thenorthface.co.uk. **5** Trainers, £55, toms.com. **6** Anorak, £125, rapanuiclothing.com. **7** Backpack cooler, £325, yeti.com. **8** Shorts, £88, reiss.com. **9** Speedmaster, £5,000, omegawatches.com. **10** Sunglasses, £50, lespecs.com

— 175 YEARS OF HARRODS —

# A blend of exceptional treasures

London's home of luxury marks its anniversary with an array of teas inspired by past, present and future



**There are few landmarks** deserving of the word “iconic”, but applying that label to Harrods, the world's leading luxury department store, has never been in doubt. And this year, that paragon of exceptional taste and unabashed opulence is marking an important milestone – its 175th anniversary.

From its humble beginnings in 1849 as a tea shop on London's Brompton Road, Harrods has grown to become a shopping institution offering 330 departments covering 1.1 million square feet.

To honour its anniversary, the store has put together a year-long programme of celebrations, filled with exclusive releases, creative collaborations and festive activities that pay homage to the magical moments and memory-making events that put Harrods on the world stage.

No matter the occasion, you will find an experience to remember, with dozens of exclusive products arriving during 2024. Toast the milestone at the Moët & Chandon Champagne Bar with a Knightsbridge 175, a cocktail that blends premium bubbles with the best Earl Grey – an elegant tribute to the store's teaming origins.

Harrods has an illustrious history, so the desire to pay respect to this is irresistible. Last month, it released a trio of teas – a tribute to the store's past, present and future. In keeping with the brand's mantra, “Anything is possible”, the Future Blend is Harrods' first AI-created tea.

As well as its heritage in tea, the store has over 100 years of expertise in fragrance, having opened its first perfumery hall in



Limited edition bears pay tribute to the founding of Harrods, which launched as a tea shop in 1849

the 1900s. This is reflected in a “masterblend” range – world-exclusive scents inspired by Harrods that have been reimagined as a collection of teas. They will bring to your palate such fragrances as Lightspeed by Floraïku Paris, Penhaligon's Mr Harrod, Brompton Immortals by Ex Nihilo and Guerlain's Royal Extract II.

The ever popular Harrods bears have been given the anniversary treatment too. The 175 bear – named Henry after the store's founder Charles Henry Harrod – and others produced in partnership with luxury brands are available in strictly limited edition runs. Following the immediate sellout of the first bears, made with Burberry and Valentino, two more will be appearing: one in July with fashion house Bulgari and one in August with British beauty brand Charlotte Tilbury. With only 175 of each made, they promise to be a must-have for any cuddly collection.

The London Symphony Orchestra played at Harrods in 1909 to celebrate its diamond jubilee, so you can be sure this year's 175th celebrations will culminate spectacularly.

The store's products and people have changed over its history, but as much as Harrods reinvents, it remains steadfastly committed to providing first-class service and world-leading creativity, as well as a home for the globe's greatest brands. The 175th anniversary is a beautiful celebration of this enduring London landmark.

*For more on the anniversary celebrations see [harrods.com/175](https://www.harrods.com/175)*

Harrods  
175  
YEARS  
OF EXCEPTIONAL



The easiest way to go from beach to bar? Use your swimsuit as a bodysuit — layer under a linen shirt and print shorts and you're good to go

## BEACH CLUBBER

**Main picture** Shirt, £920, and shorts, £830, Versace, net-a-porter.com. **1** Swimsuit, £215, awaythatday.com. **2** DolceVita watch, £4,700, longines.com. **3** Top, £595, tove-studio.com. **4** Small raffia tote, £885, Saint Laurent, net-a-porter.com. **5** Sandals, £84, A Emery, net-a-porter.com. **6** Hoop earrings, £155, missoma.com. **7** Cotton mididress, £303, Three Graces London, theoutnet.com. **8** Linen shirt, £35, marksandspencer.com. **9** Leopard-print denim shorts, £185, ganni.com

Silk dress, £330,  
Asceno. Cardigan,  
£1,180, Blumarine. Socks  
(throughout), £2.50,  
Calzedonia. Earrings,  
£7,200, Tabayer



# 'It's not supposed to make you feel comfortable'

Slave Play is the hotly anticipated theatre event of the summer — and the most controversial.

**Zing Tsjeng** meets its star Olivia Washington to talk dancing, Dalston and her dad, Denzel

Photographs **Tung Walsh** Styling **Julia Brenard**

**Olivia Washington isn't worried** about starring in *Slave Play*, the acclaimed theatrical hit that's so combustible, thousands of people signed a petition to get it taken off the stage. "No, it didn't turn me off of it," she says, smiling. "In fact, it presented a really interesting challenge."

You'd think she was treading the boards in a leisurely revival of *Sunday in the Park with George*. Instead, she's a lead in the fêted playwright Jeremy O Harris's breakout opus, about three interracial couples who submit to an extreme form of couples counselling — "antebellum sexual performance therapy", to be exact. Today, Washington and I are on the balcony of the Young Vic, a few minutes away from the rehearsal studio where this summer's West End cast — a mix of old hands reprising their Broadway roles and newcomers to the play, like Washington, 33 — have finished rehearsing. She moved to London three weeks ago and will live here for its 13-week run. "What's the neighbourhood that starts with D?" Dalston? "That's where everyone says I should go." Dressed in double denim and a chic gold nameplate chain made by her mother, the actress Pauletta Washington, she'd fit right in. "I'm pretty sure I'm wearing it backwards," she says of the necklace (she pulls it off splendidly).

In *Slave Play*, the black partner in each couple suffers a malaise that makes them unable to feel pleasure in the bedroom. The cause? America's centuries-old legacy of slavery; unprocessed racial trauma; the full-body ick of hearing your white partner, as Washington's character Kaneisha does, describe you as his "queen" — take your pick. The proposed solution to this sexual dysfunction is to role-play degrading historical fantasies, which Kaneisha embraces with relish. She dresses as a plantation slave and eats food off the floor. It's a brutal comedy of manners where the unsayable isn't just said but screamed. Little wonder the word "controversial" has followed *Slave Play* wherever it has gone.

"Isn't that what art is supposed to do?" Washington says of the provocative plot. "It's supposed to challenge the norm. It's not supposed to necessarily make you comfortable."

When the play first premiered in New York in 2018, Madonna and Whoopi Goldberg squeezed themselves into its 199-seater theatre to find out what the fuss was about. By 2020 it had received a record 12 Tony nominations — the most for any play ever — and had transferred to Broadway for two consecutive runs. But some cast members have received death threats, and the play's arrival in the UK has been shrouded in a political storm over the "black out" nights, which Harris originally started in 2019 to, according to the producers, create "an environment in which an all-black-identifying audience can experience and discuss an event ... free from the white gaze". A No 10 official described the nights as "wrong and divisive". (For the record, you won't get booted out if you fail to meet the racial criteria.) Washington cheerfully volunteers that the production didn't fill her in on Rishi Sunak's intervention: "They didn't tell me that!" Great publicity, though. "I guess so, if you can get the prime minister to talk about it."

Washington was born in Los Angeles into quite the showbiz lineage: her twin, Malcolm, is a director, her oldest brother is the *Tenet* star John David, her elder sister, Katia, produced John David and Zendaya's romantic drama *Malcolm & Marie* — and, of course, there's Pauletta and her husband, one Denzel Washington. "It kind of happened that way," she shrugs of her industry siblings. "It wasn't planned. We didn't sit down and have a meeting."

Washington was crippledly shy as a child but was forced out of her shell when Pauletta signed her up for dance classes with Eartha Robinson, the veteran choreographer



Kit Harington and Olivia Washington, stars of *Slave Play*, with the director, Jeremy O Harris (centre)



who has worked with the likes of Beyoncé. At the time Washington and her siblings were attending predominantly white schools and were taught by white teachers. Their mother saw Robinson's lessons as a necessary corrective: "Having extracurricular activities where a black woman was teaching you ballet — it made me see me in spaces that maybe I wouldn't have seen myself," Washington says.

Still, she recalls desperately not wanting people to look at her during dance recitals. "Eartha pushed me. She was, like, 'You're shy, but I also see something else.' She pulled something out of me that I didn't know was there." After falling in love with acting classes — taught by none other than *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* actress Vernee Watson-Johnson — Washington ended up enrolling at the prestigious Tisch drama school in New York. The rest, as they say, is history.

It's hard to square that shy child dancer with the luminously polished actress in front of me, so confident when discussing the artistic process of working with stars such as Harington ("a very, very lovely man — there's no ego anywhere") or her determination to hunt down unconventional roles, such as her star-making turn in *I'm a Virgo*, the director Boots Riley's surreal and sly Prime Video superhero drama. When I point this out, she ironically gestures towards her face: "This is all a front."

In *I'm a Virgo*, Washington plays Flora, a lonely burger chef who falls for a 13ft giant named Cootie. (Told you it was unconventional.) "So many times young black women can get placed into a category playing strong, supportive [characters]," Washington says of the role, which saw her pick up an Independent Spirit Award nomination. "What I find fascinating is the ability to not always have, excuse my language, your shit together." She's still in touch with Riley, whom she describes as having an "impeccable" mind. Is

there a season two coming? "I wish — I don't know. Tell them to do another season!"

Who does she go to for advice? "My family unit — they're my best friends." It certainly sounds as if the Washingtons are some of the most well-adjusted, loving parents in Hollywood. "They made a strong home," Washington acknowledges, which she credits to her grandparents and "who they are and where they came from — people growing up in the Fifties in Mount Vernon and North Carolina". And, she adds with a laugh, "My parents don't have actor friends." Did she find it hard making her own way as an actress? "I'm currently still navigating that, right? It's still happening in real time," she says. "But to me, I love them. So it's not a point of shame or something that is painful."

What does she make of the nepo baby discourse? "What do you mean?" she says warily, appearing to be slightly lost. Well, it's this whole idea that you've got an advantage if you've got family in the industry. "All I can really say is ... I mean, I love my family. And I understand that I'm blessed." She pauses to take a long, pointed drink of water. To be fair to Washington, she has more than done her time — before *I'm a Virgo*, she got by for years on bit parts in shows like *Empire* and *Mr Robot*. "After school, when I couldn't find work," she remembers, "I was a nanny." Even her first audition post drama school was a nightmare — the casting director noted that she was "too green, too eager".

Now that she's starring in one of the most hotly anticipated West End productions of the year — and with Riley's show tipped for Emmy greatness — it must feel as if her time has come. "No," she says with blunt honesty. "It feels like I'm still" — she starts flapping her arms around as if in the middle of several frantic phone calls — "'I'll work! You want me to do that? I'll do that!'" Is she at least saying no to more roles? She looks genuinely tickled by the suggestion: "No, I haven't said no to lots of stuff!" Right now she seems happiest in the middle of rehearsals, exploring London and joining Harington and the rest of the cast in the pub after work. Pretty ordinary stuff — and I suspect Washington likes it best that way. ■

*Slave Play* is at the Noël Coward Theatre, London WC2, until September 21. For tickets visit [slaveplaylondon.com](http://slaveplaylondon.com)



Washington with her father, the actor Denzel Washington

**This page** Top, £495,  
Tove. Skirt, £295,  
Almada Label.  
Shoes, £625, Izie.

**Opposite** Coat,  
£1,690, Burberry

**Hair** Marcia Lee at C/O  
Management using Hair  
by Sam McKnight.

**Make-up** Jenny Coombs  
at The Wall Group using  
Fenty Beauty and Fenty  
Skin. **Nails** Jada-Elize  
Lorentz at Premier Hair  
and Make-up using  
Chanel Le Vernis in  
Rouge Noir and Chanel  
La Crème Main. **Set**

**design** Tilly Power at  
The Magnet Agency.

**Local production** Mayor  
Productions



# Wall or nothing

A generation of homeowners may have spent the Nineties knocking through houses, but open-plan living has had its day, says **Katrina Burroughs**

**There was a time**, a quarter of a century ago, when we declared war on walls. Every Gen Xer with an interest in interiors became a steel beams bore; the school-gate chat was about Acrow props. We knocked through entire floors to create loft-like spaces — even if we resided in quaint period buildings in the 'burbs with perfectly proportioned rooms and pretty plasterwork. It was the late Nineties/early Noughties Faux Industrial Revolution, when the fantasy was a disused factory or a warehouse conversion. Those who lived the dream, and perhaps added a glass-box kitchen extension for good measure, discovered that wide-open spaces can be draughty, dusty, distracting and tricky to decorate. (Should one try to conjure several cosy room sets? Or stick to loft living's factory settings and go with exposed brickwork and leather sectionals?) Previously the pinnacle of aspirational interior design, open plan now feels uncomfortable, inconvenient and, frankly, a bit naff. What were we thinking?

"This one hits home," Alexandria Dauley, an interior designer, says when asked to reveal her feelings on open-plan living. "As a mother of two teenage daughters I often curse the day I opted for the kitchen/living/diner concept. The place is never tidy unless you dedicate your life to picking up after people or you are rendered hoarse nagging for plates to be put in the dishwasher rather than left in the sink, situated 20cm to the right. While the layout does allow for family interaction, entertaining friends and large parties, if you are someone who craves order and clear surfaces it doesn't deliver. Top of my list when I move will be a large utility room, butler's pantry, smaller diner-in-kitchen and a separate living room."

Dauley is not alone in resenting her open-plan interior. Rayman Boozer, the interior designer who founded Apartment 48, says that even New Yorkers are pushing back against hangar-like multifunctional spaces. It's a development he suggests is linked to their passion for TV series set in English period houses, from *Downton Abbey*



**Above** The interior designer Alexandria Dauley finds her open-plan tricky to keep tidy and craves a separate living room



**Left** Rachel Chudley’s “broken plan” design still feels spacious but has distinct living areas. **Below** Ancillary spaces like this Plain English scullery reflect a move away from open plan. **Bottom** The utility room in Rita König’s Teesdale farmhouse

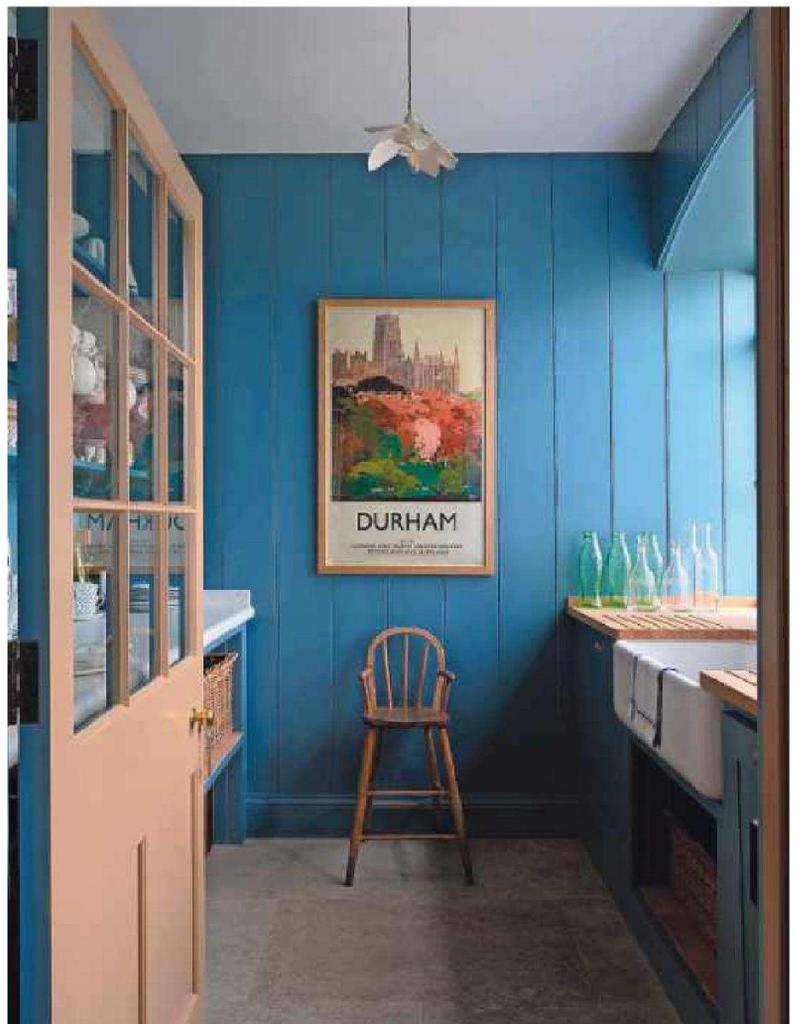


to *Bridgerton*. “Inspired by many of the period dramas that are so popular these days, there’s a desire to create elegant dining experiences for gatherings of family and friends. This often means cutting off direct access to the hustle and bustle of the kitchen and immersing guests in lusciously designed dining rooms.” Boozer laments the fact that his own home is open plan. “Living in an NYC loft, I’ve suffered personally from an open concept. I typically try to get the cooking done prior to my guests’ arrival because, with an open space, every guest becomes a cook in the kitchen and often a world-class food critic too. No family risotto recipe is safe.”

It’s not just shy chefs who are troubled by these XXL rooms. Bookworms are forced to wear noise-cancelling headphones in open-plan kitchen/living/diners to drown out the clamour of crockery and conversation, fan ovens and humming fridges, not to mention the racket of their spouse’s TennisTok habit.

“The noise can be unbearable, especially when there isn’t enough fabric to absorb the din,” says Joanna Plant, a decorator and bespoke furniture maker. “People often overlook acoustics when designing large spaces. There seems to be an increasing appreciation of smaller rooms and the word ‘cosy’ comes up regularly in our client meetings. After all, we are in chilly England not California.” Plant is referencing the American godfather of “open concept”, the architect Frank Lloyd Wright, who was responsible for more than a hundred buildings in the Golden State. His domestic designs often featured a generous kitchen/living/dining space. Plant’s point, of course, is that what wowed at Fallingwater — Lloyd Wright’s most famous creation, in the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania — is not likely to be the best solution for a Vicky T (Victorian terrace) in Lavender Hill.

So why did British homeowners fall so hard for open plan? “It was a sign of affluence to have these big spaces in





**Above, from left** A deVOL kitchen is separated by Crittall-style doors; laundry rooms like this ape the servants' quarters of country houses. **Below** Plain English uses glazed partitions to divide large spaces and create a room within a room, such as a scullery or secondary kitchen



## ‘As a mother of teenage daughters I curse the day I opted for the kitchen/living/diner concept’

the Nineties,” says Daniel Hopwood, an architect who started his career knocking down internal walls for his residential clients and now finds himself restoring them. “People were going to a lot of trouble reshaping rather beautiful old houses. They created these machines for living in, but [actually living in the space] was like being put through a car wash. They didn’t have any charm.”

Fast-forward 25 years and now charm is king, and single-task ancillary spaces have replaced open-plan interiors as the status room — the more recherché the function the better. A case in point: Hopwood’s latest renovation includes a flower room, off the kitchen, where his client can keep trugs, secateurs, bowls and vases, and arrange blooms cut from the garden in a deep Belfast sink.

And now that below-stairs style — mimicking the servants’ quarters of an English country house, with its warren of larders, laundry rooms and sculleries, boot rooms and butler’s pantries — has replaced warehouse chic in the nation’s affections, we are falling back in love with pocket-size rooms. Not before time, says the queen of chic and cosy kitchens, Rita König. “I think that you need rooms! You want somewhere cosy to go and watch television. You need places to retreat to, especially once you have a family. I love the intrigue of rooms — your eyes drift to a doorway and you think, ‘I wonder what’s in there, what happens inside, what’s round the corner, what’s up the staircase? In an open-plan interior you are always looking at the kitchen sink and it’s a bit depressing.”

If you aren’t ready to ditch open plan, there is a middle way: “broken plan”. This retains the spacious feel, natural light and sightlines of the knocked-through spaces of the Nineties and Noughties, while gaining storage and distinct living areas by adding half walls, open shelving and Crittall-style screens. Rachel Chudley, an interior designer with a genius for colour, has a knack for making this type of divider into a decorative feature, with sliding stained-glass doors. Chris and Nicola Cox, sculptors, designers and makers of decorative furniture, have hand-made glass and metal doors separating their living/dining areas. Meanwhile, the kitchen designers at Plain English have been using glazed partitions to section up a large space or create smaller rooms within a room: a scullery where china can be stored and dirty plates stacked, a breakfast station or even a secondary kitchen where cooking smells can be contained.

One last open-plan myth that the designers are determined to bust: the kitchen/living/diner concept makes for the ultimate social space, a hangout where the generations will enjoy each other’s company, morning, noon and night. “I imagine a lot of young people have been bruised by open-plan living,” Hopwood says. “You were never able to shut the door and do something naughty because your parents’ eyes were always on you.”

We say — if only for the sake of the children — bring back walls. ■



**Top** The knocked-through spaces of the Nineties and Noughties can be turned into distinct areas by adding half walls or screens, as in this deVOL design. **Above** Dividing a kitchen, such as this one by Plain English, means cooking smells can be contained and guests aren’t left staring at the sink

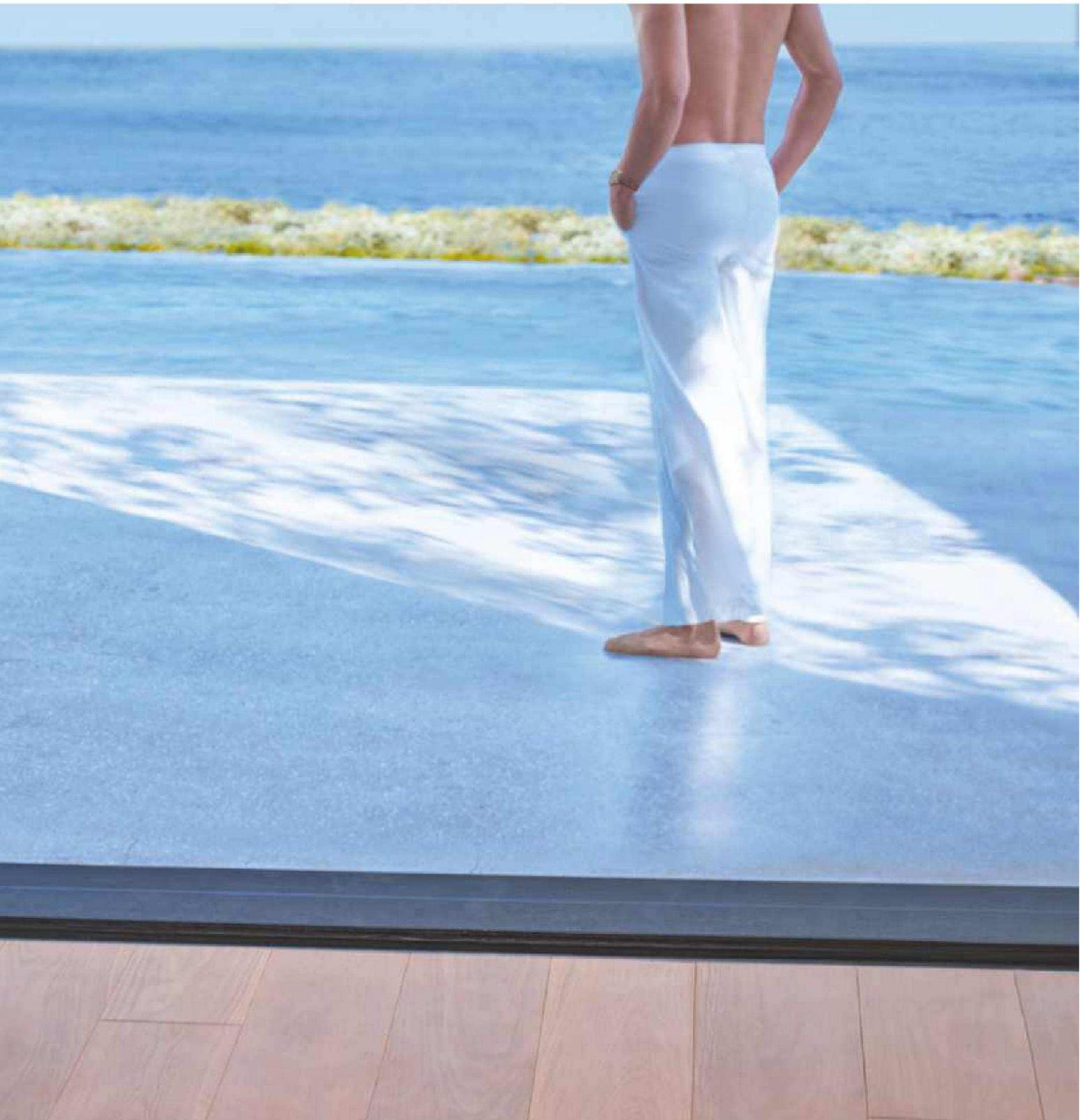


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MAXX ROYAL  
RESORTS

# 50 My summer beauty must-haves

From the ultimate in meltproof make-up to the least sticky SPF's, here are **Sarah Jossel's** hard-working summer heroes

Photograph  
Rosaline Shahnavaz



**Have you seen the viral trend** on social media called “Instagram v reality?” It’s where people share what they think they’ll look like for an occasion versus what they really look like. A relatable situation for summer — we have the holiday vision: tousled beach waves, glowing bronzed skin, glossy even-toned limbs. And then there’s the reality: full-factor frizz, melted make-up and patchy red skin because you missed a spot with your SPF (don’t you hate it when that happens?). To help, I’ve put together the 50 hardest-working beauty products so that you can strut confidently at home and on holiday all summer long. Let’s go!

## LIGHT-TOUCH SKINCARE

*Switch up your skincare routine for summer like you would do with your wardrobe*

### **The cooling face mist** **Avène Thermal Spring Water spray, £15.50 (1)**

Refresh even the most sensitive skin with this iconic water mist. Pop it in the fridge for an icy-fresh hit. Plus, there is a travel size for in-flight hydrating sessions.

### **A lightweight 2-in-1 cleanser** **Rhode Pineapple Refresh Cleanser, £28 (2)**

Wash off the day’s dirt and slough away dead skin and sweat in one step with this pineapple enzyme cleanser. Use morning and evening, even on sensitive skin.

### **A non-greasy moisturiser** **Clinique Moisture Surge 100H Auto-Replenishing Hydrator, £42 (3)**

This highly regarded hydrator packs a moisturising punch without feeling heavy or interfering with make-up. It is oil-free and fragrance-free, and each application is like a big gulp of water for parched complexions.

### **A pigmentation preventative** **La Roche-Posay Mela B3 Serum, £48 (4)**

This serum is a first of its kind to help prevent melanin overproduction. What does this mean for you? If used correctly then a reduced number of uneven brown patches forming on the face \*applies in bulk\*.





### THE BODY GLOW-UP

*Apply all over for a head-to-toe filtered-skin finish*

#### *For brighter, lighter limbs*

**Margaret Dabbs Fabulous Legs Firming Leg Serum, £45 (5)**

Massage in upward strokes to help with water retention and to relieve the feeling of heavy legs. Use it regularly to give bare summer legs a lovely shine and gloss.

#### *Sun-kissed skin for the tan-phobic* **This Works Perfect Legs Skin Miracle, £42 (6)**

Not a fan of the faff that comes with fake tan? This ever-so-slightly caramel-tinted serum gives an instant sheen and a more even skin tone. Apply at the 11th hour for year-round post-holiday skin.

#### *A dead-skin buster*

**Nécessaire The Body Exfoliator, £30 (7)**

If chlorine and sun have left your body feeling dull and dehydrated, then gentle exfoliation is the secret weapon for getting your glow back. Scented with uplifting eucalyptus, the charcoal and chemical exfoliators sweep away dry skin. It's also excellent for the bumpy backs of arms and legs.

#### *A cooling nonstick body gel* **The Body Shop British Rose Body Yogurt, £14 (8)**

I often skip body creams because they're a bore to use. They take ages to rub in and leave skin tacky to touch. This body yoghurt is cooling and refreshing, and dries almost instantly.

### HOT-WEATHER HAIR HEROES

*How to have a good hair day when you're up against the sun, sea and sand*

#### *The hair moisturiser* **Orbè Supershine Moisturizing Cream, £56 (9)**

Moisturiser for your hair is the hero you didn't know you needed. Smooth into damp hair to save even the thirstiest of strands. It gives gorgeous shine and smoothes out fuzz.

#### *The under-£5 flyaway fixer*

**Got2B Glued Blasting Freeze Hairspray Travel Size, £3 (10)**

Keen on slicking back hair or sporting a post-pool ponytail? This "I mean business" spray secures and sets every hair in place.

#### *The curl creator* **The Kérastase Curl Manifesto range, from £28 (11)**

I'm recommending a whole range here as different curly types will have different curly needs, but this is the line to know for keeping waves and coils hydrated and in shape. One top tip: the less you touch your hair the better. Overfiddling only breaks down your natural bends.

Apply the cream, oil or serum and let the bounce begin.

#### *For straw hair* **Davines The Renaissance Circle Hopeless Hair Repair Mask, £11 (12)**

Wrecked, damaged hair from too much sun and chlorine? The Italian brand Davines should be on more people's radars. Hairdressers love the products and yet the brand hasn't trickled down into many of our hair hero lists. Leave this on for ten minutes for a rich moisture boost.

#### *The wet-look styler (without the crunch)*

**Fenty Hair The Controlling Type Hair-Thickening Edge Control, £22 (13)**

Rihanna recently moved into haircare and the full line is superb. If gel brings up bad memories of rock-hard hair and horrid residue, then this will wow you like it did me. The invisible texture is malleable and bendy and locks hair in any style you wish. Scoop out a dollop, smooth into the roots and go over with a brush for a glasslike shine. What wispy bits?

#### *The beach-wave wand*

**Hershesons The Wand, £120 (14)**

Not quite rocking the post-sea beach waves you had in mind? I know the feeling. This wand is the perfect size to deliver a cool-girl bedhead bend. Top tip: always hold your wand facing south for 15 to 20 seconds on each section, et voilà — Gisele beach hair, almost ...

#### *The boho-mermaid style*

**Mermade Pro Pink Waver, £55 (15)**

According to TikTok, the boho-mermaid S-shape wave is the hairstyle of the summer — and this is the tool to recreate the look. The good news is that it is in fact easier than a traditional tong. It's like crimping, but without the fluff. You simply clamp and release from root to tip.

#### *One more thing*

The humble toothbrush: whether it's smoothing down frizz, straightening up your parting or slicking back any misbehaving flyaways, any old toothbrush (that is not being used on your teeth!) is an unsung beach bag hero.

### MELTPROOF MAKE-UP

*My long-wear, easy-to-apply, minimalist must-haves*

#### *The bronzing sculptor* **Rare Beauty Warm Wishes Effortless Bronzer, £25 (16)**

Swipe and blend along cheekbones, temples and the jawline for a sculpted tan. In the past bronzing sticks have been tough to blend but this sinks beautifully into the skin giving a sun-kissed warmth. Oh, and it's water-resistant too, so no melting complexions to contend with here.

#### *The tinted moisturiser in a stick*

**Anastasia Beverly Hills Beauty Balm Serum Boosted Skin Tint, £43 (17)**

If you have a limit on liquids then this solid innovation is one to know. Traditionally stick foundations were known to be heavy and masklike but this gives a sheer second-skin veil. Packed with hydrating skincare, it's a minimalist make-up dream.

#### *The smudge-and-go liners* **Bobbi Brown Longwear Cream Eye Liners, £29.50 (18)**

Now is not the time for faffing or fixing eye make-up errors. These black, brown and forest green crayon liners can be swept on the waterline for a defined liner look or smudged on to lids for a more smouldering eye-pop. Eyeliner novices apply here.

### *A neatening mascara*

#### **Maybelline New York Lash Sensational Firework Mascara, £10 (19)**

Maybelline is the maverick of the mascara world and its prices always make you gasp “I can’t believe it’s not... more expensive!” This chameleon wand can be used to separate neatly — or layer it on for statement lashes.

### *The smoothing skin tint* Lisa Eldridge **Seamless Skin Enhancing Tint, £37 (20)**

This egg-shaped gem provides seamless coverage without the cake. It has an incredible shade range, one coat looks natural and fresh for daytime, while the buildable formula lets you layer for a made-up evening look.

### *The glow-giving primer*

#### **L’Oréal Paris Lumi Glotion, £12 (21)**

If that coveted summer glow is proving harder to achieve than you anticipated, then fake it with a “glotion” — that’s a glow-lotion, get it? Apply like a primer under your base or on its own for candlelit skin.

### *The 60-second smoky eye* Lancôme Idôle **Tint Liquid Eye-Blusher, £29 (22)**

If a ten-step smoky eye doesn’t appeal then sweep an “eye blush” on to your lids and use fingers to blend. It makes eyes pop and takes no more than 60 seconds to apply. It also looks gorgeous on cheeks and lips.

### *The Aperol spritz cheek pop*

#### **Elf Cosmetics Camo Liquid Blush in Peach Perfect, £7 (23)**

Instead of the usual pink, I implore you to try coral or peach for sunnier days. It gives a sun-tickled freshness to all skin types and tones. Use any excess product on eyelids.

### *The ethereal glow-giver*

#### **Dior Forever Glow Maximizer liquid highlighter, £36 (24)**

The rosy glow dabbed on to the tops of cheekbones can best be described as a candle-lit pop of radiance. Be prepared for the inquisition: “What’s on your face? How come you’re glowing?” and “Have you had a facial?”

### *The shine combatter* Charlotte Tilbury **Airbrush Flawless Finish, £38 (25)**

Sweaty upper lip? Greasy chin and forehead? I’ve got you covered. Well,

Charlotte Tilbury does. This is my all-year-round hero for extending make-up wear and keeping shine at bay.

### **SWIPE-AND-GO LIP ENHANCERS**

*Applying on the move? Meet the no-mirror-required top pout picks*

### *A stop-and-stare red* Burberry Kisses **Liquid Matte Lipstick in The Red, £31 (26)**

Red, on holiday? Too high-maintenance? Not with this. It glides on like cashmere and the finish is bold and fresh. The non-drying matte texture means no dreaded smudging outside the lines.

### *A lipstick-balm hybrid* Yves Saint Laurent **Loveshine Lipstick, £36 (27)**

Is it a lipstick? A lip balm? A lip gloss? This doubles — or triples? — as all three. It’s like blush for your lips and one sweep adds a soft, sheer colour with a voluptuous juicy shine. Keep in your bag for all-day touch-ups.

### *A hydrating lip oil* Vieve Lip Dew, £19 (28)

Bye-bye lip gloss, hello lip dew. Picture your all-time-favourite hi-vis gloss without any stick at all. Available in peach, pink and clear, the dew can be worn on its own or over your choice of lipstick.

### **THE GOLD-STAR SUN PROTECTORS**

*Eat, sleep, apply SPF, repeat*

### *The body spray* Sun Bum Original **SPF 50 Spray, £16 (29)**

It’s the coconut-scented, fuss-free spray that all my friends on holiday fight for by the pool. It goes on seamlessly, dries almost instantly and protects brilliantly. Full marks from me.

### *The cream* Shiseido Expert **Sun Protector Lotion, £38 (30)**

Imagine an SPF that works harder when you jump in the pool. This has a genius “water activation” technology that means you and the kids can swim without a worry. Slather the lightweight SPF 50 all over and enjoy.

### **AND FOR YOUR FACE?**

### *For under make-up* Mecca Cosmetics **To Save Face SPF 50+ Superscreen, £35 (31)**

Made in Australia, this product is a skincare first — a weightless formula that won’t interfere with your base.

### *For a glow* Garnier Vitamin C Daily **UV Fluid SPF 50+ Glow, £13 (32)**

Garnier has done it again with this dewy, silklike primer and SPF 50 in one. Apply daily for an all-over radiant skin gleam.

### *For mineral* Beauty Pie Traceless Mineral **SPF 30 Broad Spectrum, £17 (33)**

Mineral sunscreens have traditionally left a chalky white cast on the skin. Beauty Pie has rewritten the rules with this almost invisible, non-greasy, 100 per cent mineral formula.

### *For misting over make-up* Sculpted by **Aimee Sun Mist SPF 50+, £19 (34)**

One of my favourite make-up artists, Aimee Connolly, has whipped up a spray designed for under or over make-up. Pop in your handbag and mist throughout the day.

### *For on-the-go extra coverage* Clarins **Invisible Sun Care Stick SPF 50, £20 (35)**

Add an extra level of protection to pigmentation-prone areas with this hard-working stick. Also great for touching up trickier spots like the back of the neck, hands and feet.

### *For tackling shine and oil* Supergoop! **(Re)setting Powder, £29 (36)**

A mattifier and SPF 30 in one, this paintbrush should be dusted on to shine-prone areas like upper lip, chin and forehead. It is also great for adding more coverage to the hairline and ears.

### *For lips* Ultra Violette SPF 50 Sheen **Screen Hydrating Lip Balm, £17 (37)**

A buttery balm that comes in pinks and nudes and just happens to have excellent in-built sun protection. It layers seamlessly throughout the day.





## THE SUNLESSTAN

*The golden-glow-givers that'll help you fake it till you make it*

### **For the face** Self Glow by James Read Sunbright Tinted Tan Drops, £39 (38)

The perfect companion for helping cheat a tan. Add a few drops to moisturiser every second or third night and each morning you'll be impressed with your bronzed, glowing reflection. No streaks or spots — ideal for anyone who isn't a fan of sunbathing but wants to look and feel like they're on holiday.

### **For the body**

### Three Warriors Self-Tan Mousse, £35 (39)

A mousse sounds messy and like things could get Tangoed in no time. But this modern-day formula dries in moments — so your bedsheets are safe! — and your limbs are one shade of bronze goddess the next morning.

### **Or for an instant tan** Vita Liberata Body Blur Body Makeup, £22 (40)

Whether it's covering a bruise or you want a more even skin finish, this is the stalwart for adding warmth and smoothing out limbs or chest. I have been known to apply it when already dressed. It dries that quickly.

## HOLIDAY SOS

*Insect bites! Sunburn! Thigh chafing! I've got you covered on the not-so-glamorous too*

### **The chapped skin fix** CeraVe Advanced Repair Ointment, £11 (41)

Peeling skin? Parched lips? Cracked soles? Whip out this when your usual hydrators aren't doing the trick. The blend of three ceramides will hydrate the most ravaged areas without leaving skin greasy.

### **The rogue-hair bulldozer**

### Gillette Venus Dermaplaner, £15 (42)

Are you reading this on the beach while stroking your chin? Add this tool to your basket for getting rid of unwanted hair on the upper lip or chin — or wherever you may need it.

### **The post-sun saviour** Lancaster Golden Tan Maximizer After Sun Lotion, £24 (43)

I get it, new products on the block feel exciting. But I'd be doing you a disservice as nothing has come close to this tan-extending aftersun. It hydrates, it helps parched skin turn golden and prolongs any colour that you've picked up.

### **The chafing fix** Megababe Thigh Rescue Anti-Friction Stick, £9 (44)

I came across this roll-on during my first pregnancy and it was a thigh-saver. Swipe on to any friction-prone areas like the inner thighs or under your boobs and arms for glideworthy, soft-to-touch skin.

### **How to avoid mosquito mayhem** Mrs White's Unstung Hero Spray, £20 (45)

Free from Deet and hideous smelling chemicals, this lovely lemon-tea fragrance keeps the insects far, far away on those long, balmy nights outside. It's so gentle you can spray it on to your bedsheets for when you sleep.

### **And how to deal with bites**

### Moskinto The Intelligent Patch, £7 (46)

OK, so one got through the net and bit you. Instead of drenching your body in stringent potions, pop on this miracle-working patch. It remedies all itchiness and takes down redness. My feet were mauled on a recent holiday and I can confirm these worked a charm.



## THE FOUR FRAGRANCES OF SUMMER

*Mouthwatering, sunshine scents to spritz poolside*

### **Tantalising tonka bean** & Other Stories Solar Essay, £29 for 50ml EDT (47)

A sophisticated sunscreen scent will either make you flock or run a mile. Proceed straight to checkout if you adore a velvety, golden tonka bean-based perfume. It comes in a rollerball, which is handy for travel.

### **Carefree floral** Chanel No 5 L'Eau Drop limited edition, £120 for 50ml EDP (48)

For the first time in history Chanel has momentarily stepped away from its world-famous No 5 bottle. It's the same scent — jasmine, rose and ylang-ylang — making it perfect for an en vacance No 5 disciple.

### **Citrus showstopper** Tom Ford Neroli Portofino, £220 for 50ml EDP (49)

Inspired by the Italian Riviera, this has a sparkling blood orange and lemon peel scent with an edge of skin-warming amber musk. It's chic, it's sexy, it's Tom Ford.

### **Creamy coconut** Estée Lauder Bronze Goddess Flora Verde, £70 for 50ml EDP (50)

Each summer Estée Lauder reimagines its cult Bronze Goddess scent. This year it's Flora Verde, a light and breezy floral reincarnation. I'm still team original with its holiday-in-a-bottle vanilla and sandalwood notes (**Bronze Goddess, £58 for 50ml eau fraîche**). ■

@sarahjossel



# Wonders of China

 Departures | August 2024 to November 2025

This all-encompassing 17-day tour of China blends must-see sights with spectacular natural scenery and cultural encounters.

Starting in the bustling capital, Beijing, explore the magnificent Forbidden City and harmonious Temple of Heaven, before a trip to the iconic Great Wall. You'll discover the ancient city walls of Xian and come face-to-face with the enigmatic ranks of life-sized Terracotta Warriors which have been shrouded in mystery since their discovery in the 1970s.

Next up is a four-night cruise on the Yangtze River, stopping at many highlights along the way. Witness the world's largest hydroelectric dam, the Three Gorges, and sail peacefully along the Shennong Stream soaking up the dramatic scenery as you pass riverside villages and forest-covered mountains.

No trip to mainland China is complete without seeing their most adorable residents; the giant pandas. Visit Chongqing Zoo's Panda House for a closer look at these playful bears before boarding a high-speed bullet train to the stunning city of Guilin - one of China's most picturesque regions.

Wind between the dramatic limestone karsts of the Li River with a trip to the lush emerald-green countryside of Yangshuo, and return to Guilin to visit the famous Sun and Moon Pagodas of Ronghu Lake and the colourful Reed Flute Caves.

The trip ends amongst the towering skyscrapers of Shanghai - a city where the old and new sit harmoniously side by side. See the city's contrasting skyline with an evening cruise along the Huangpu River, find serenity at the peaceful Yu Gardens and explore the magnificent architecture along The Bund.

When booking this tour with The Times Expert Traveller, you will get an exclusive complimentary pre-tour extension including an extra hotel night with breakfast and transfers - make sure to quote TIMES-ON when booking.



### What we love

China is a land of many wonders - ancient and modern, natural and man-made. This hugely popular tour is a comprehensive journey through China's most iconic sights from the magnificent Great Wall to the mighty Yangtze River.



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# India Knight

This powerful peel is the best I've found to fade my dark spots



**Dark spots, whether from sun damage** or acne scarring — or even melasma after pregnancy — are such a pain and so hard to shift. But there are things you can do, and this week's product is one of the most impressive ones I've come across.

First, some caveats. Nothing that you apply topically is going to zap your dark marks entirely, because no product is literal magic. "Hyperpigmentation" is a broad term, covering everything from a faint, spontaneously appearing freckle to severe sun damage. Just to be clear, what I am talking about today is the "hang on, what's

that on my cheek? Where's that suddenly appeared from?" end of things. What I am *not* talking about are really dark sun-damage marks — I have a couple of examples on the side of my face — that have been there for ages.

But you know when you're really peering at yourself, maybe in a magnifying mirror, and there are small but noticeable gradations in skin tone that seem to have appeared out of the blue? They are the ones I mean, ditto old acne scars that look slightly shadowed. These very much can be helped, in that certain products can even out the complexion so effectively that you wouldn't know there had ever been an issue in the first place. You have to be patient and rigorous, though — it's not good enough only putting on the product when you remember to.

**Dermalogica** says of its **Powerbright Dark Spot Peel** (£79) that it "visibly lifts dark spots in five uses", which sounds outlandish, but again, it depends on the extent of the damage you're trying to fix. When I tested it, I found that five uses was indeed enough to make a significant improvement to small areas of my face that were not quite the same shade as others. After I'd used it for the fifth time, my skin was noticeably evened out — and also incredibly soft (always a plus) — to the point where I had to deploy the dreaded magnifying mirror to see if I could still see the old dark marks. I could not.

**BUT!** I don't want to peddle false hope — these were not the dark mark equivalent of port stains. If my skin is the colour of a cup of tea, these marks were the colour of a cup of tea with not enough milk — not glaringly unrelated to my skin colour, but rather just a little bit off. They weren't the colour of tea with no milk.

However, unless they're of the vintage that's old enough to have fried itself to leathery oblivion several decades ago, these tea-analogy discolourations are what most people are concerned about when they think of their skin as being annoyingly uneven and marked. I first came across this product because someone who was driven to despair by ancient acne marks raved to me about it, so it definitely works on those too. I found it did wonders for skin texture, though this isn't something it promises to do.

The peel is a powerful mix of AHA and PHA acids and includes tranexamic acid. This is your guy when it comes to dark spots or any discolouration issue at all, and is the ingredient to look for if the Dermalogica peel is too expensive. But what I rate, and what I think makes it work, is the highly effective mixture of ingredients. It could not be easier to use: you apply a thin layer, leave it for 15 to 20 minutes and rinse it off, initially daily and then as per the instructions on the box. Cosmetic science is amazing — this sort of product simply didn't exist when I was young. ■

## INDIA LOVES

**FIX** We've had a leaky garden tap for years — the hose fitting clicks in fine, but the water spurts out of the top of the tap in a wasteful and annoying way. I finally decided to do something about it, imagining plumbers, new taps and a load of faff and expense. But no. Plumber's tape, 36p a roll from Screwfix, solved the problem in 20 seconds. Who knew? Everyone except me, probably, but I'm passing it on just in case.



My skin was noticeably evened out — and also incredibly soft (always a plus)

# Dear Dolly

Your love, life and friendship dilemmas answered  
by **Dolly Alderton**

**I'm in my late twenties and would like to drink less. I always mean to go out for two or three drinks and then go home, but I always end up staying out longer and having more. Do you have any advice on drinking in moderation, particularly during the summer months?**



**As a matter of fact I do.** Drinking too much isn't great for loads of reasons — personal safety, liver safety, cycles of shame and guilt. You don't need me to tell you this. But it's also nice to drink rosé and, I'm sorry, it's also nice to get drunk occasionally. Someone's got to say it as it is around here. There is a balance to be found, and you're at the perfect age to find that balance and take it into your thirties and beyond. As a former caner turned "sustainable caner", here are my tips.

(Please note: I'm taking your letter at face value and giving you some handy hints on how to reduce drinking as a person who would be described as "a lush" at the most extreme end of their boozing, rather than someone who is powerless to their alcohol consumption. If drinking is a habit that you do not feel in control of, I am not the person to advise you. Please speak to a counsellor, GP or look into support groups.)

● **Don't drink wine** If you're someone who struggles with knowing their limits, wine is not your drink. It's too yummy and too easy to drink and once you're in a group and it's free-flowing you can't monitor how much you've had. Drink cocktails. Cocktails take a while to mix and should take a while to drink. Find your perfect cocktail. Savour every sip and make it last. For a quiet night have one cocktail, for a medium have two and on a big night three. Martinis and manhattans do not count with this rule. Never have more than two of those.

● **Meet for food and drinks, not just drinks** Particularly on a weeknight.

● **State your preferences** If you're someone who has always liked staying out late, you may have some work ahead of you to change that pattern, because people will inadvertently associate your company with getting drunk. I used to be Proust's madeleine for binge drinking. People would get one whiff of my perfume/L'Oréal Elnett hair-spray and see it as permission for a rager. But if everyone sees you as their massive night out, and you socialise quite a lot, that means everyone else gets to recover whereas you have to find the energy to be a freelance wreckhead for fear of otherwise disappointing people. You have things to do: work! Sleep! Watch *The Bear*! If you want to go home,

go home. It's not your job to provide everyone with a huge night out. You are not a holiday rep.

● **Learn your own moderation** Look, you may never be someone who tracks their units of alcohol and eats 12 unsalted almonds as a snack. You may be a person who enjoys extremity. Enjoying extremity very occasionally, I think, is its own type of moderation. If you're someone who needs a Big One, space the Big Ones out. Not every

Saturday night needs to end with tequila shots, cigarettes and a strangely expensive McDonald's order at 4am.

● **Think about the hours you gain rather than the hours you lose** Chasing the night was always a big thing for me too. Even now, with the right company and the right cocktails and the right warm temperature, I can find myself running around Soho at two in the morning insisting that the night has just begun. When you're in that frame of mind, going home at a reasonable hour feels like you're losing out on hours of potential fun. But what that calculation doesn't take into account is the hours it wipes out the next day with a hangover; the way a night like that can wreck a working day, or social plans, or plans for yourself (there is a giant pot of money that exists somewhere filled to the brim with no-show fees for spin classes cancelled at 3am on the day of the session). Next time you feel the fomo of going home before 11pm, try to remember all the time you'll get back the following day.

● **Remember, there is always more lasagne in the fridge** Something cognitive behavioural therapy teaches someone trying to eat more moderately is that food will not run out. If you make a delicious lasagne, it will be just as delicious the next day if you put the leftovers in the fridge rather than eating it all until you feel sick. There are always more nights out. There will always be people who want to go for a drink with you. There will be more summers. I think English weather engenders this idea that we have to make the most of every single day of sunshine with every drop of rosé available to us before we hunker down for winter. But this is a false belief. English people, famously, like going to the pub all year round. The pub will not run out. Leave a slice of pub in the fridge and you'll enjoy it even more next time. ■

To get your life dilemma answered by Dolly, email or send a voice note to [deardolly@sundaytimes.co.uk](mailto:deardolly@sundaytimes.co.uk) or DM [@theststyle](https://www.instagram.com/theststyle)



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